

# STARS AND STRIPES®

**Troops hold on to Iraqi dinars hoping for rise in value**

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2004

## Four Americans killed by bombs inside Green Zone

Fallujah officials protest Allawi ultimatum on terror leader Page 3



### Semper five

Marine Sgt. Joshua Horton was flown to a military hospital in Bethesda, Md., this week for treatment of wounds suffered in Iraq. The day before, his wife was in a Chicago area hospital, giving birth to quintuplets.

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Marine Sgt. Joshua Horton of Oswego, Ill., is seen in a family photo with his wife, Taunacy, and their two older children, Sean and Shaleigh.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE/AP

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PETER PHOTINO/Stars and Stripes

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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

### States

**Ex-Klansman in hospital:** Former Ku Klux Klansman Bobby Frank Cherry, serving life imprisonment for a church bombing that killed four black girls in 1963, was hospitalized in critical condition after his health deteriorated, prison officials said Thursday.

Cherry, 74, was taken from Holman Prison to Attmore Community Hospital on Wednesday, according to Brian Corbett, a spokesman for the Alabama Department of Corrections.

Convicted in 2002 in the bombing of Birmingham's Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, Cherry has a history of heart problems, and prison officials said he has been treated for diabetes at Holman.

His relatives said his health has worsened in recent months.

**Wrongful-death lawsuit settled:** The families of four student band members killed in a 2001 bus crash settled a wrongful-death lawsuit against two travel companies and their drivers for \$15 million.

The agreement came one day before a trial was to begin in Massachusetts against Boston companies Crystal Transport and Kristine Travel and Tour and drivers Hin C. Kan and Fred C. Pranger. Van Hool, the Belgian manufacturer of the bus, will also contribute to the settlement, lawyers for the families said Wednesday.

The tour bus was carrying 42 children from Oak Hill Middle School to a concert in Halifax, Nova Scotia, when the vehicle flipped on its side before dawn in April 2001 in Sussex, New Brunswick. The driver lost control after speeding into a hairpin turn on a highway exit, investigators said.

**Tour bus crash:** A tour bus that crashed along an Arkansas highway, killing 14, was in such poor condition that it would have been pulled out of service had it been inspected, investigators said Wednesday.

The National Transportation Safety Board said it found pre-existing cracks on frame rails that held up the motor in the rear of the bus.

The agency did not link the cracks to Saturday's crash, saying the cause remained under investigation. Authorities were still looking at whether the driver, Herbert Walters, fell asleep at the wheel and planned to subpoena his medical records.

**Cremona trial:** A trial for a Georgia crematory operator accused of failing to burn hundreds of corpses has been postponed while the state Supreme Court hears an appeal of scores of criminal charges.

Ray Brent Marsh had been scheduled to go on trial this month, but it was put on hold pending the appeal. Among other points, defense attorneys argue that dead bodies are not property subject to the state's theft laws. The 787 criminal charges against Marsh include 439 counts of theft.

**Pakistani pleads guilty:** A Pakistani man arrested after a police officer saw him videotaping skyscrapers and landmarks in Charlotte, N.C., pleaded guilty Tuesday to five charges, none related to terrorism.

Under a plea agreement, Kamran Akhtar, 35, faces up to six months in prison before being deported. The charges carried a maximum of 33 years in prison.



**American astronaut Leroy Chiao gives a thumbs-up during the ride from the suit-up facility at the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan to the launch pad as he and his Soyuz TMA-5 spacecraft crewmates, Russian cosmonauts Salizhan Sharipov and Yuri Shargin, prepare for their liftoff Thursday, to the international space station. The spaceship is due to dock with the station at 8:17 a.m. (0417 GMT) on Saturday.**

Federal authorities are still trying to determine whether the New York City resident has any links to terrorism. However, they have said he is not on any terrorism watch list, and Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said in August that he had not been tied to terrorism.

Akhtar pleaded guilty to immigration violations, making false statements, failing to identify the United States and possessing false identification.

### World

**Pakistan president remains army chief:**

Lawmakers passed a bill Thursday allowing President Gen. Pervez Musharraf to remain as Pakistan's army chief, despite his earlier promise to step down from the post. The move was condemned by opponents, who said it gives the U.S.-backed leader too much power and underscores claims that Pakistan is ruled by a military dictatorship.

The government said the bill would ensure stability in a country with a long history of political turmoil. Its passage in the National Assembly came just days after the fifth anniversary of the bloodless coup in which Musharraf took power.

The law would ensure that the country has a leader capable of strengthening "our drive and commitment in the fight against terrorism," said Tariq Azeem Khan, a spokesman for the ruling party.

**Turkey EU membership:** France's prime minister said Thursday that neither Turkey nor the European Union is ready for the mostly Muslim nation to join the bloc.

Kicking off a closely watched debate in parliament, Jean-Pierre Raffarin sought to soothe widespread opposition to Turkey's eventual membership, saying it wasn't imminent.

But Raffarin also said a stable Turkey is in France's interests and argued that Turkish hopes "must be considered."

Lawmakers from French President

Jacques Chirac's Union for a Popular Movement (UMP) and from other parties had pushed for a debate on Turkey's EU aspirations before Dec. 17 — when EU leaders are to finalize an initial approval of membership talks.

Chirac's support of membership talks for Turkey places him at odds with many lawmakers and French opinion.

**Mad cow disease concerns:** Japan confirmed its 11th case of mad cow disease on Thursday, underscoring concerns about the fatal brain-wasting illness as Tokyo mulls relaxing cattle-testing standards that could allow the resumption of U.S. beef imports.

The latest case came amid continuing talks between the United States and Japan aimed at lifting Tokyo's eight-month ban on U.S. beef imports from what had been their most lucrative overseas market.

Japan has been reconsidering its policy that all cows headed for market be tested for mad cow disease — a requirement that has become a major sticking point in the negotiations. While Tokyo says it wants to resolve the dispute, it maintains that its first priority is food safety.

### War on terrorism

**Moussaoui rehearing denied:** Terrorism suspect Zacarias Moussaoui lost a bid Wednesday to have the full Richmond, Va.-based 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals review two issues — witness access and the death penalty — that have delayed a trial.

Moussaoui's lawyers, Frank Dunham Jr. and Edward MacMahon Jr., said they have not decided whether to ask the Supreme Court to grant Moussaoui direct access to three al-Qaida prisoners and bar the government from seeking the death penalty.

Before the ruling, the lawyers notified the trial judge in the case that they would file such an appeal if a rehearing was denied.

A petition to the high court could cause additional delay in a case that has lasted for almost three years.

Stories and photo from wire services

### Correction

Maj. John Wilt's name was incorrect in a story Oct. 9 about Afghan special forces being caught in an ambush. Wilt is the team leader with the Asadabad Provisional Reconstruction Team.

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# Explosions rock Baghdad's Green Zone

Apparent suicide bombings kill 10, including 4 Americans; separate attacks claim 2 GIs

BY NADIA ABU EL-MAGD

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Insurgents penetrated Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone and detonated explosives at a market and a popular café Thursday, killing 10 people, including four American civilians, in the first bombings inside the compound housing the U.S. and Iraqi government headquarters.

A top Iraqi official said the attacks appeared to have been suicide bombings.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said in Washington that four American contractors and six Iraqis were killed.

The attack raised fears over security in the compound and underscored militants' ability to strike in the capital even as U.S.-Iraqi forces step up military operations to suppress them in other parts of the country.

Earlier Thursday, a U.S. soldier was killed when his patrol in Baghdad came under small arms fire, the military said. In a separate attack, a second American soldier was killed when an improvised bomb exploded in eastern Baghdad, wounding two others, the U.S. command said. No further details were disclosed.

Iraq's most feared terrorist group, Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's Tawhid and Jihad, reportedly claimed responsibility for the Green Zone bombings according to a statement posted on a Web site known for its Islamic content.

A U.S. military statement said the two bombs appeared to have been hand carried into the zone. Five people were killed, including three Americans, and 20 wounded, including one U.S. soldier, an American civilian and

two U.S. civilians, the statement said. Officials did not release the nationalities of the other dead and wounded.

Last week, officials said an improvised bomb was found in front of the Green Zone Café, the same restaurant targeted Thursday — but was defused.

After Thursday's blasts, the U.S. Embassy "strongly encouraged" Americans living or working in the Green Zone to limit their movements, travel in groups, carry several means of communication and avoid the bazaar and restaurants inside the compound.

A delegation from the insurgent stronghold Fallujah suspended peace talks with the government Thursday because of Prime Minister Ayad Allawi's "impossible" demand to hand over terror mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the city spokesman said.

Allawi warned Wednesday that Fallujah must surrender al-Zarqawi and other foreign fighters or face military attack.

Abu Alasad, spokesman for the religious council of Fallujah, said the "handing over al-Zarqawi" was an "impossible condition" since even the Americans were unable to catch him.

Elsewhere, two bombs exploded Thursday in the northern city of Mosul, targeting an Iraqi National Guard patrol and an American military company, witnesses and U.S. officials said. At least two people were killed and seven others wounded.

Military spokesman Lt. Col. Paul Hastings confirmed that an Iraqi National Guard convoy was hit by a roadside bomb. Guards found another bomb at the same site and detonated it in a controlled explosion.

The second explosion hap-



An American helicopter passes over after two explosions in the heavily fortified Green Zone in Baghdad on Thursday. The Green Zone is home to the U.S. Embassy and Iraqi government offices.

pened as an American convoy was passing, but missed its target, Hastings said. Witnesses said it appeared to be a car bomb. A hospital worker, speaking on condition of anonymity, said one Iraqi bystander was killed and another injured in the second explosion.

U.S. and Iraqi forces have stepped up military operations in Sunni militant strongholds across a wide swathe of territory north and west of Baghdad on the eve of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which last year saw a surge in rebel attacks.

U.S. warplanes struck at least three sites in Fallujah on Thursday which the command said were being used by followers of al-Zarqawi. Intelligence sources

indicated one building was being used to store weapons and two were safehouses used to plan attacks, the military said.

At least five people were killed and 16 wounded in all, according to Fallujah General Hospital.

Late Thursday, Fallujah residents reported another intensive round of U.S. bombardment as the embattled city came under heavy air fire from U.S. forces.

In Ramadi, city hospital officials said Thursday eight people were killed and 17 wounded in 24 hours of fighting.

U.S. troops swept into the city west of Baghdad early Wednesday, sealing off key streets, taking position on the rooftops and searching buildings, residents

said. Warplanes and helicopters hovered overhead.

Rebels fought back with gunfire and mortar blasts. Three mortars, apparently aimed at city hall, slammed into a nearby house, killing two people and wounding four, including women and children, said Dr. Alaa al-Aani of Ramadi General Hospital.

The fighting subsided Thursday morning and U.S. forces withdrew from the city, residents said. The U.S. military had no immediate comment on the clashes.

Similar raids in Baquba on Wednesday netted 10 suspects, including two people believed to be insurgent leaders in the area, said Capt. Marshall Jackson, spokesman for the 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division.

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

By The Associated Press

As of Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2004, 1,081 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 825 died as a result of hostile action and 256 died of non-hostile causes. The figures include three military civilians.

The British military has reported 67 deaths: Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, eight; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; the Netherlands, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 943 U.S. military members have died — 716 as a result of hostile action and 227 of non-hostile causes, according to the military's numbers as of Wednesday.

Since the start of U.S. military operations in Iraq, 7,862 U.S. service members have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defense Department's weekly tally.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

- Two soldiers were killed Wednesday in a car bomb attack in Mosul.
- One soldier was killed Wednesday when an explosive detonated in western Baghdad.
- Three soldiers were killed Tuesday when an explosive detonated near their convoy in eastern Baghdad.

The latest identification reported by the military:

- Army Staff Sgt. Michael L. Burbank, 34, Bremerton, Wash.; killed Monday when an explosive detonated near his vehicle in Mosul, Iraq; assigned to the 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, Fort Lewis, Wash.
- Army Staff Sgt. Pamela G. Osbourne, 38, Hollywood, Fla. and Army Pfc. Anthony W. Monroe, 20, Bismarck, N.D.; killed Monday when rockets hit their camp in Baghdad; assigned to the Division Artillery, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.
- Marine Pfc. Oscar A. Martinez, 19, North Lauderdale, Fla.; killed Tuesday in Anbar province; assigned to 1st Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.
- Marine Cpl. Ian T. Zook, 24, Port St. Lucie, Fla.; killed Tuesday in Anbar province; assigned to 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

## Western compound proves uneasy oasis

BY RAGHAD IWAZ

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The leafy Green Zone is touted as the safest place in Baghdad, but the U.S.-guarded enclave that spreads along the banks of the Tigris River in the heart of the capital has never been immune from violence.

Even before Thursday's deadly bombings at a market and a café inside the fenced-off 4 square miles, the zone was a regular target of insurgent mortar attacks and several car bombs exploded at its gates.

Its trees and other greenery offering a sharp contrast to the rest of dusty and arid Baghdad, the area is crowded with the offices of the interim government, occupation officials and foreign contractors as well as the homes of thousands of average Iraqis.

Surrounded by 13-foot-high

concrete walls, razor wire, sandbag bunkers and guard posts, the zone also is an enclave of the Western lifestyle.

About 5,000 Americans are hunkered down in the zone. Women in shorts often jog along tree-lined avenues, and off-duty soldiers lounge by the pool. Everything from pornographic movies to mobile phone accessories are on sale at the local bazaar.

One problem is a lack of space. Dozens of sports parks are scattered around the zone, shielded by sandbags to guard against mortar shells and rockets.

The American planners who drew the Green Zone perimeter had to include hundreds of middle class homes because they were near important government buildings that couldn't be left out. Many of those people aren't happy about their American neighbors.

# Troops take a gamble on Iraqi dinars

## Some investors see future gold in currency that's not worth pennies now

BY JULIANA GITTLER  
Stars and Stripes

**BAGHDAD** — In drawers and footlockers, servicemembers in Iraq are banking on the future by hoarding millions of Iraq's year-old currency, the dinar.

Many suspect the dinar's precipitous drop in the past decade could mean a huge rebound ahead. Each dinar was once worth a few dollars; they're now worth a fraction of a penny apiece.

If post-war Kuwait is any example, they might be right: A Kuwaiti dinar was valued at about a dime after the war. Each now brings in \$3.40.

Still, that's a big gamble, financial experts say. And Iraq is no Kuwait — a small, politically stable country with massive oil reserves.

Insurgents, a nascent government and extreme poverty still plague Iraq.

"If only the country turns around," said one investor, Staff Sgt. Matthew Gadohis, a Vermont National Guardsman with the 1st Battalion, 86th Field Artillery at Camp Victory, Baghdad.

"That's the gamble," adds another, Sgt. Richard Couture, from the same unit.

They, and most soldiers they know, have picked up a few hundred thousand dinars — equivalent to a couple hundred dollars. They know others who have bought considerably more.

If the value jumps just a bit — from 1/16th of a penny to 1/8th of a penny for example, investors double their money. If it jumps to a few cents, they can start paying off mortgages, the goal for Gadohis.

He learned of the scheme from a fellow soldier who, he adds, likes to gamble.

"I was skeptical at first," Gadohis says. "But it's like playing the stock market. If it takes off, great."

Iraq has a few attributes that make it attractive. The most obvious is oil, and the fact that it could blossom into a functional country.

Still the government could over-

### What's in a dinar?

Iraq's currency once held sway in world markets. According to a Library of Congress report, the Iraqi dinar was once worth as much as \$3.39 during the 1970s and remained at nearly that level until the Iran-Iraq war during the '80s. Sanctions following the Gulf War caused the currency to plunge, according to the Central Bank of Iraq. After Iraq fell in 2003, the currency, which once included Saddam Hussein's picture, was changed. On Oct. 15, 2003, the Coalition Provisional Authority, then in charge, launched a new dinar. Currently \$1 buys 1,460 Iraqi dinars.



Stars and Stripes

spend and weaken the economy despite its oil. And there's always inflation to dampen the already low value.

"While that is a nice idea, soldiers probably shouldn't be currency speculators," said Michael A. Goldstein, associate professor of finance at Babson College in Massachusetts in an e-mailed statement. "All sorts of things could happen, especially inflation in dinars. This is likely a sucker bet if the major investment banks aren't speculating, neither should your average GI."

He points to the example in Eastern Europe after the Cold War. Gains in currency value were eroded by inflation as the country developed.

"One of the easiest ways to finance government expenditures is just to print more money and spend it. When the government prints more money, it causes inflation," he says.

It might also be difficult or expensive to off-load the dinars down the road. The few banks that buy foreign currency in the States charge fees for doing so, he says.

Many soldiers recognize the gamble and are prepared to wait years to see what happens.

"It's not really a big investment," says Capt. Scott Moreland, currently serving with the 1st Battalion, 185th Armor Regiment of the California National Guard in Camp Sannia, Iraq. "Most of us have thrown a few hundred bucks at it to see what happens. Your odds are better than they are in Vegas."

He adds that Department of Defense savings programs are probably a better bet.

Military investors should note that U.S. customs laws require them to declare if they bring home more than the equivalent of \$10,000 in any currency.

And post offices in theater forbid mailing currency home. But there is no Department of Defense regulation to stop them, according to military officials.

The get-rich-quick idea isn't limited to those serving in Iraq.

On the auction Web site eBay, dinars sell for marginally more than the going rate. A recent sale collected \$75 for 100,000 dinars. Under the current exchange rate, that amount should cost about \$68.

Scores of vendors online have been set up just to sell dinars. In one case, a million dinars, worth about \$685, was on sale for \$895.

One of these sites sums up the efforts in its name: BeTnIraq.com.

"Short answer — don't do this with more money than you usually bet in one evening's poker game."

Goldstein adds that as a gamble the idea isn't crazy, but it's certainly not a wise investment.

"Ira's planning minister, Madhi al-Hafid, acknowledged the problem. But he said donors agreed to consider involving more Iraqis in the implementation of projects as an alternative to relying on foreigners, who are more likely to be targeted for kidnapping and other violence."

Ross Mountain, a representative of the United Nations, warned that rebuilding Iraq will require patience.

"We should not believe in a quick fix," he said.

Organizers stressed the meeting was not primarily aimed at drumming up new



JULIANA GITTLER/Stars and Stripes

Staff Sgt. Matthew Gadohis, a Vermont National Guardsman with the 1st Battalion, 86th Field Artillery at Camp Victory, Baghdad, shows off his investment in Iraqi dinars. Servicemembers banking that the depressed currency could rebound are buying it by the bundle.

# Conference nets Iraq millions in rebuilding funds

BY ERIC TALMADGE  
The Associated Press

**TOKYO** — Donor nations wrapped up a two-day meeting Thursday with pledges to speed up projects to rebuild Iraq — possibly by bringing more Iraqis to implement them — and expressed their strong support for the country's plans to hold national elections in January.

The meeting of 57 countries and international organizations was a follow-up to a conference a year ago in Madrid, where the international community, led by the United States, vowed to contribute tens of billions of dollars.

Organizers said the meeting was particularly significant because it was the first time the Iraqi government has had a chance to outline its development strategy

to the donors since the United States handed over sovereignty on June 28.

But, in desperate need of funds to make that plan work, much of the Iraqi delegation's efforts were focused on urging countries to come through on pledges put on hold by Iraq's continuing instability.

Deputy Prime Minister Barham Saleh opened the conference by expressing strong frustration with the slow pace of funding, arguing that many parts of the country are safe enough for projects to go forward and warning that delays could ruin Iraq's chances of a sustainable recovery.

Thursday's talks focused on how two trillion funds operated by the United Nations and the World Bank can be made more effective. Conferees also discussed how to ensure that contributions put into the funds

are used for reconstruction projects on the ground and not diverted elsewhere.

But security remained the top issue. "We identified security as the biggest challenge to overcome," said Japan's Akio Shiota, the conference chairman.

Iraq's planning minister, Madhi al-Hafid, acknowledged the problem. But he said donors agreed to consider involving more Iraqis in the implementation of projects as an alternative to relying on foreigners, who are more likely to be targeted for kidnapping and other violence.

Ross Mountain, a representative of the United Nations, warned that rebuilding Iraq will require patience.

"We should not believe in a quick fix," he said.

Organizers stressed the meeting was not primarily aimed at drumming up new

pledges, but instead at giving Iraq's leaders a chance to explain their policies and for the donors to review the nation's progress.

Still, pledges came from Iran, which announced it will give \$10 million, and Denmark, which pledged \$4 million. New Zealand offered another \$940,000. The head of the European Commission delegation said the commission has proposed \$246 million for Iraq in its 2005 budget.

Russia, France and Germany, which opposed the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq last year, sent representatives to the donor conference for the first time. Though those countries have offered bilateral assistance, they have not put money through the international trust fund for Iraq.

The United States, which pledged \$13.4 billion in Madrid, has disbursed about \$3.4 billion for reconstruction so far, including about one-third in the past 12 weeks.

# Surviving for a growing family

## Marine recovering from Iraq injuries becomes father of quintuplets

BY DON BABWIN  
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — As Marine Sgt. Joshua Horton lay in a hospital bed across the ocean recovering from wounds he suffered in Iraq, his wife was in a maternity ward in suburban Illinois, making him a father five times over.

Horton knew his wife was expecting quintuplets, but decided it was his duty to go to Iraq last month with Marines he helped train — even if it meant leaving his wife and two children behind.

"He was taking them into combat for the first time. He wanted to get them there safely and return," said Dean Fisher, the bishop of Horton's church in Oswego, a Chicago suburb.

On Tuesday, a day after his wife Taunacy gave birth to three girls and two boys, Horton was back in the United States, but not with his family. He was transported from a hospital in Germany to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

A Marine spokesman said Horton, 28, is expected to recover but was so heavily sedated that he probably was not yet aware

he is a father again.

At Edward Hospital outside Chicago, meanwhile, the quintuplets — each weighing less than 2 pounds — were in critical but stable condition.

Friends and relatives said Horton chose to put his life and family on hold to serve his country.

"This guy is my hero," said Bill Powell, a lieutenant with the Aurora Police Department, where Horton is an officer.

Like many others, Horton felt he had to do something after the terrorists struck the United States on Sept. 11, 2001. Horton had been in the Marines and his wife had been in the Navy, and they thought one of them should volunteer for duty.

"They just both felt very strongly that ... somebody needed to defend our country," said Taunacy Horton's stepmother, Anne

Watts.

Even though they had two children, the couple agreed Horton would enlist in the Marine Reserves.

Then came the news that Taunacy Horton, who was taking fertility drugs in the hopes of having a third child, was pregnant with quintuplets.

When Sgt. Horton's Chicago-based unit was activated in June for training in preparation for deployment to Iraq, he had a decision to make.

"One of his greatest comments was, 'There are other mothers waiting for their sons to get home and I need to give some other men relief,'" Fisher

**Maj. Rick Coles**

Unit information officer

needed to say, 'Taunacy, as a military mother, she understood that and actually encouraged him.'"

Last Thursday, Horton was in the Babil province south of Baghdad when he was

hit with either shrapnel or bullets in his torso and right leg. The military told his family someone tossed a grenade near him when he was on a house-to-house search with a handful of Marines, Watts said.

Initially, doctors were concerned they might have to amputate Horton's right foot, but Maj. Rick Coles, the unit's information officer, said they are now confident that will not be necessary.

Coates didn't know how long Horton would remain in the Naval hospital before he could be transferred to Illinois.

Coates said that Horton's decision, as strange as it might sound to someone who has not been in the military, makes sense to those who have served.

"He has, quite frankly, two families: his wife and kids, and the Marines," he said. "He felt he had two obligations: one to his family and one to the other family."

When Taunacy Horton learned of her husband's injury last week, she was able to joke with Fisher about how her husband just couldn't stick to their plans.

When she went into labor a few days later, just 26 weeks into her pregnancy, she joked again with Fisher. "She said, 'Boy, no one is staying with the schedule.'"

# Comrades remember specialist's sacrifice

## 20-year-old Californian killed when convoy attacked in Iraq

BY STEVE LIEWER  
Stars and Stripes

Behind Spc. Morgan Jacobs' surfer-dude blond buzz cut, blue eyes and bright grin stood a soldier of strong nerve and fierce patriotism, say those who knew him best.

Friends and fellow soldiers gathered Wednesday at Ledward Barracks in Schweinfurt, Germany, to remember the 20-year-old Jacobs, of the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment. He died Oct. 7 of injuries suffered the day before when insurgents attacked his convoy with a homemade bomb and small-arms fire near Baiji, Iraq.

"What I will remember most about Spc. Jacobs is how enthusiastic and full of life this young man was," said 1st Lt. Jonathan St. Clair, Jacobs' platoon leader in Iraq, in a eulogy read at the service. "Whether he was explaining to me which kind of snowboard I should buy, how to remove the feeder from his Bradley, or talking about a recent trip he had taken, he was always someone who brightened your day and would put a smile on my face."

Jacobs grew up in Santa Cruz, Calif., a youngster with many friends and many interests. He loved skin boarding, skateboarding, mountain-biking, baseball, basketball and golf, friends and family told his hometown newspaper, the Santa Cruz Sentinel.

No one ever expected he would



Spc. Morgan Jacobs

grow up to be a soldier, but the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, at the beginning of his senior year of high school, changed Jacobs' life forever. He enlisted the next summer, a few weeks after graduation, as an infantryman, despite the pleas of his family to choose a safer job.

"He was really, really proud," boyfriend friend Dan Williamson, 19, told the Sentinel. "When we'd go out, he'd wear his uniform out. He would wear that with pride."

In basic training at Fort Benning, Ga., the paper reported, Jacobs met Pat Tillman, the pro football player who gave up his lucra-



KRISTEN CHANDLER TOTH/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Keith Wright stands at attention during the playing of taps at the end of the memorial service Wednesday in Schweinfurt, Germany, for Spc. Morgan Jacobs of the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, who died after his convoy came under attack near Baiji, Iraq.

tive career to join the Army and was killed last April in Afghanistan.

Jacobs landed with Company B of the 1-18 Infantry in April 2003, in the midst of the Iraq invasion. He served as a Bradley gunner, Humvee driver and platoon armorer. After months of training, his unit deployed to Iraq on Feb. 10, where it was posted to Camp Sumnerall in Baiji as part of Task Force 1-7.

In Iraq, Jacobs completed more than 300 combat missions.

"Jake" was a guy that everyone liked to have around," recalled Sgt. 1st Class Jason Travis, Jacobs' platoon sergeant, who was with him when he was fatally injured. "He was smart, witty, at times crazy, and always dependable. He could get any job done that was given to him regardless of how difficult it was."

Jacobs was the gunner atop Travis' Humvee that night. The NCO credited Jacobs with saving his life when they were attacked.

"I cry every night knowing that

I am alive and you are not," Travis said in his emotional tribute. "I am so sorry that this terrible thing happened to you, and all I can do is admire and respect the sacrifice you made for the platoon and for me."

Jacobs is survived by his parents, Todd and Cindy, and his 12-year-old sister, Austin. A memorial service is scheduled Saturday in his hometown.

E-mail Steve Liewer at: [liewers@mail.estripes.osd.mil](mailto:liewers@mail.estripes.osd.mil)

# Army: More Gs face prison abuse charges

BY JOHN J. LUMPKIN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Up to 28 U.S. soldiers face possible criminal charges in connection with the deaths of two prisoners at an American-run prison in Afghanistan two years ago, the Army announced Thursday.

The most serious potential charges include involuntary manslaughter and maiming, the Army said in a statement.

The announcement marked completion of a nearly 2-year investigation into the deaths. The Army's Criminal Investigation Division recommends various charges against the 28, with some facing more serious charges than others.

So far, only one person, a military police

reservist, has actually been charged in connection with the deaths. Sgt. James P. Boland of the Army Reserve's 377th Military Police Company was charged Aug. 23 with assault and dereliction of duty.

For the other 27, their commanding officers will make the final call on whether they face a court-martial, administrative discipline or no disciplinary action.

The deaths, in early December 2002, were ruled homicides by U.S. military medical examiners.

In the first case, Mullah Habibullah, also 28, died of "pulmonary embolism due to blunt force injuries to the legs," according to doctors. He was in detention at Bagram, Afghanistan. Previous reports said he died Dec. 3, the Army's announcement Thursday put his death as Dec. 4.

About a week later, on Dec. 10, an Afghan identified only as Dilawar, 22, died in U.S. custody at Bagram. Doctors blamed his death on "blunt force injuries to lower extremities complicating coronary artery disease."

Others who are expected to face charges are from the 519th Military Intelligence Battalion. Some members of the 519th went from Afghanistan to Iraq in 2003 and are among those accused by Army investigators of abusing Iraqi detainees in the fall of 2003.

The Boland charge sheet lists one count of dereliction of duty in connection with Habibullah's death.

The sheet says Boland, who was a guard at the Bagram prison, was derelict "in that

he negligently, willfully or through culpable inefficiency" failed to take corrective action against another soldier who struck Habibullah while he was restrained. The name of the other soldier was blacked out for privacy reasons, the Army said.

The other charges are in connection with Dilawar's death. Boland is accused of dereliction of duty for failing to seek medical treatment for the prisoner, "who was visibly in need of medical care and later died," according to the charge sheet.

Boland also is charged with maltreating Dilawar "by shocking him in a standing position with hands suspended above shoulder level for a prolonged period of time." An alternate charge of assault is listed, citing the same description of a prolonged shackling of Dilawar.

## Report says real war doesn't match expectations based on technology

Stars and Stripes

The Iraq War was supposed to be a preview of the new U.S. military: a light, swift force that relies as much on sensors and communications networks as on heavy armor and huge numbers.

But once the shooting started, technology fell far short of expectations, according to a forthcoming, largely-classified report by the think tank RAND Corporation.

Portions of the report were obtained by Technology Review, a monthly magazine produced by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

During the war, much of the new digital firepower convinced many in the Pentagon that the war could be fought with a far smaller force than the one it expected to encounter.

But, Technology Review reports, one key node fell off the U.S. intelligence network: the front-line troops.

Among front-line commanders like Army Lt. Col. Eric "Rock" Marcone, a battalion

*But once the shooting started, technology fell far short of expectations, according to a forthcoming, largely-classified report by the think tank RAND Corporation.*

commander with the 69th Armor of the 3rd Infantry Division — as well as his counterparts in the U.S. Marines — "Everybody said the same thing. It was a universal comment: 'We had terrible situational awareness,'" he said. The same verdict was delivered after the first Gulf War's ground battle, but experts had hoped the more robust technology would solve the problem.

Some units outran the range

of high-bandwidth communications relays. Software locked up. And the enemy was sometimes difficult to see in the first place. As the Marines' own "lessons learned" report puts it, "The [First Marine] Division found the enemy by running into them, much as forces have done since the beginning of warfare."

In theory, information isn't merely power. It's armor, too. Tanks weighing 64 metric tons could be largely phased out, giving way to lightly armored vehicles—at first, the new 17-metric-ton Stryker troop carrier—that can avoid heavy enemy fire if need be.

"But the vision of all this is totally dependent on information technologies and the network," Stuart Johnson, a research professor at the Center for Technology and National Security Policy at National Defense University in Washington, told the magazine. "If that part of the equation breaks down, what you have are small, less capable battalions that are more vulnerable."

## Military ID theft

NORFOLK, Va. — Lawyers for a sailor accused of identity theft involving more than 20 officers aboard the carrier USS George Washington have until Monday to file objections before a judge begins deliberating the charges.

The accusations against Petty Officer 1st Class Curtis L. Phillips, 28, were outlined at an Article 32 hearing, the military's version of a grand jury proceeding. Lt. Mark Takla, the government's attorney, said Phillips' actions resulted in the theft of more than \$250,000 worth of property — luxury cars, a motorcycle and merchandise.

Phillips, who has been with the Navy for four years, is from the Baltimore area, and is stationed aboard the USS George Washington. The carrier returned in July to Norfolk from a six-month deployment to the Persian Gulf.

From The Associated Press

## Military STAR card rate to increase in November

Stars and Stripes

The interest rate for the Military STAR card will go up to 9.75 percent — from 9.5 percent — starting with the November billing period, Army and Air Force Exchange officials announced Tuesday.

AAAFES spokeswoman Army Sgt. 1st Class Amanda Glenn said the hike is based on the Federal Reserve's rate increase. The Federal Reserve announced Sept. 21 that it would raise the prime rate to 4.75 percent. The Military STAR card's interest is the prime rate plus 5 percent.

"This affects interest rates across the board," Glenn said.

Customers will receive notification of the rate change in their October statements.

New purchases after the November billing period constitute acceptance of the revised interest rate, according to an AAAFES news release.

The rate increase does not apply to Military Clothing Plans, special promotions already in existence or to customers on deployment whose balances are treated under special conditions or have balances at reduced rates.

The STAR card can be used at all AAAFES, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard Exchanges.

## House wants and a TSP changes year-round

BY SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Congress is attempting to revamp rules to the Thrift Savings Plan with legislation that would abolish the "open season" and let participants join or make changes any time they'd like.

House members of Congress have passed respective bills to get rid of the enrollment period restricted to the two open seasons a year. But the bills differ in one way that separates the cost between the two by about \$1 billion over the next 10 years, according to Congressional Budget Office estimates, causing a delay.

Meantime, the next open season for the TSP kicks off Friday, giving participants until the end of the year to enroll or make any changes to their plans. The TSP is the federal government's version of the civilian work world's 401(k) retirement and investment savings program. Earnings are tax deferred until participants withdraw money, usually after retirement.

The plan to eliminate open seasons "is a good thing" for participants, said TSP spokesman Tom Trabucco. "They give people more freedom. For instance, the open season that allows them to elect to contribute or adjust their contributions happens twice a year. Often, employees may get a step increase or a pay increase" and must wait until the open season to make any investments or changes, he said. "The bills allow them to make that election. We welcome and support both bills."

The House version differs in that employers would begin adding matching contributions immediately for the civilian employees under the Federal Employees Retirement System, or FERS. The change outlined in the House version would have no impact on uniformed personnel since they do not have agency-matching contributions, Trabucco said.

Federal agencies match dollar-for-dollar the first 3 percent of participants' contribution, and 50 cents on the dollar for the 4th and 5th percent. Those covered by FERS can contribute up to 15 percent of their basic pay each year, up to the IRS cap of \$14,000. Agencies automatically contrib-

ute an amount equal to 1 percent of employees' salaries to a "G Fund" managed by a specialist. The employee's name when that employee elects not to participate.

Uniformed personnel can contribute up to 15 percent of basic pay and 100 percent of any incentive or special pay.

According to CBO estimates, the House version will cost \$1 billion over 10 years, compared to the Senate version at \$30 million over the same period. Both houses are working on the Senate version of the bill, S2479.

Because of the differences in the two bills, the measure has been sent to conference to have lawmakers iron out a final piece of legislation.

Representatives from lawmakers' offices on both sides have said they hope the matter will be resolved before Congress adjourns in November.

"[Sen.] Daniel Akaka hopes the House version will be passed, and Congress does the right thing for federal employees," said Paul Cardus, spokesman for the democratic senator from Hawaii. "He is aware of the cost differences and understands the federal deficit and the nation's financial situation does not allow for the House version at this time. It would be fiscally imprudent to take action on the House version."

In the interest of abolishing the open-season requirement, the House might adopt the Senate version because of the lower price tag, said Rep. Tom Davis, D-Ia., chairman of the House Government Reform Committee.

The Senate bill is co-sponsored by Alaska Sen. and Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine.

"Elimination of the open seasons in the Thrift Savings Plan is a priority for both Sen. Davis and Sen. Collins, and we expect to have a bill to the President by close of the 108th Congress," Davis said. "The bill represents the ideal in that it eliminates open seasons for both employee and employer contributions, however, the ultimate goal is to get legislation that can pass through both houses."

More information is at [www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov) or Alaska Rep. Tom Davis' office at (907) 386-3739. Callers outside the U.S. can call (800) 777-7777, toll-free.

E-mail Sandra Jontz at [jontz@stripes.osd.mil](mailto:jontz@stripes.osd.mil)

## IN THE WORLD

## Afghan vote count starts

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM  
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Vote counting in Afghanistan's presidential election got under way Thursday, five days after a landmark vote meant to cement a new era of stability after more than two decades of strife.

A top election official said about three-quarters of the 10.5 million Afghans who registered for the election turned out to vote — despite threats of violence.

Ballot boxes have flooded in to the counting centers by road, air and even donkey from across the rugged, impoverished country.

The head of the Afghan-U.N. electoral commission cut the seal on the first box opened in the capital, Kabul, to begin the tallying process to determine the country's first popularly elected head of state.

Counting also started in four regional centers: the northern cities of Kunduz and Mazar-e-Sharif, eastern Gardez and the main southern city of Kandahar.

The remaining three counting centers were expected to begin work by Saturday. U.N. spokesman Manoel de Almeida e Silva said 95 percent of the ballot boxes have reached the counting centers.

Reginald Austin, the top adviser to the joint election commission, said the first "substantial" results could emerge in about a week.

Austin said initial information from polling stations indicated that "nearly eight million people cast ballots, a turnout of between 75 and 80 percent."

Karzai, who enjoys strong international backing and is seeking to bridge the war-ravaged nation's deep ethnic divides, is widely be-



An Afghan election worker sorts ballot papers at Kabul's counting center on Thursday.

lieved to have won, possibly with the absolute majority needed to avoid a run-off.

Officials had stalled the start of vote counting while a panel of foreign experts sifted through several dozen complaints of alleged irregularities from the 16 candidates, including front-running, U.S.-backed incumbent Hamid Karzai.

None of their complaints appear serious enough to invalidate final results expected by Oct. 31. Some ballot boxes have not been retrieved yet from far-flung regions, and the count may take time even after that. Most election workers have received only a few hours of training.

The chances for a solid result improved following the appointment of a panel of three foreign experts to investigate complaints from Karzai's rivals.

The election was a clear triumph for the massive security operation mounted to protect it from militant attack.

## Aggressive security

WASHINGTON — Personnel from a private U.S. security firm in Afghanistan have engaged in "aggressive behavior" while protecting President Hamid Karzai, the State Department said Wednesday.

Spokesman Richard Boucher said U.S. concerns about inappropriate activities by some guards from the firm, DynCorp, have been passed on to company officials.

Mike Dickerson, of the Computer Sciences Corp., the parent company of DynCorp, said the firm's employees are working closely with State Department officials to do "the best possible job in a very difficult, dangerous and challenging environment."

The State Department has been responsible for Karzai's protection since 2002. DynCorp personnel have assisted them.

From The Associated Press

Commission says  
Bosnian Serbs killed  
7,000 Muslim males

BY IRENA GAJIC  
The Associated Press

BANJA LUKA, Bosnia-Herzegovina — A Bosnian Serb forces killed more than 7,000 Muslim men and boys at Srebrenica, a Bosnian Serb commission conceded Thursday in its final report on the 1995 massacre.

Bosnian Muslim officials claim that up to 8,000 men and boys were killed at Srebrenica in July 1995, when Serb troops overran the U.N.-declared safe zone in Europe's worst massacre of civilians since World War II.

Although the report gave a lower estimate of the number of victims, the panel's vice president, Small Cetic, told The Associated Press the figure was not final.

"That is hard to achieve because differences in sources," Cetic said. "That is still an open question."

The Bosnian Serb government formed the commission of judges and lawyers last year to investigate who was responsible. Its final report includes information on the location of 34 mass grave where some of the victims are presumed to have been buried, Cetic said.

So far, the remains of about 18,000 victims from different ethnic groups who died in the 1992-95 war have been exhumed from more than 300 mass graves across the country.

U.N. and Muslim experts have found the remains of about 5,000 victims from mass graves in eastern Bosnia and discover new remains every month. The fate of

the others is still unknown. Nearly 1,200 Srebrenica victims have been identified through DNA analysis.

Although Bosnian Serbs long have been blamed for the massacre, it was not until this past June — following the Srebrenica commission's preliminary report — that Serb officials acknowledged for the first time that their security forces carried out the slaughter.

Bosnian Serb wartime leader Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, his top general, are wanted for genocide and crimes against humanity for the Srebrenica killings and other atrocities.

Karadzic is believed to be hiding in the half of Bosnia controlled by the Serbs, while Mladic is thought to be hiding in Serbia.

Both were indicted in 1995 by the U.N. war crimes tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands, for their alleged roles in the Srebrenica massacre and for the Serbs' three-year siege of Sarajevo during the war.

The peace agreement that ended the war in Bosnia left the country divided into a Bosnian Serb mini-state and a Muslim-Croat federation. Both have separate governments, police and army and are linked only by joint state institutions.

The Bosnian war — which pitted Serbs opposed to Bosnia's independence from the former Yugoslavia against Muslims and Croats backing it — claimed about 260,000 lives and left around 20,000 missing and presumed dead.

## EU backs passage of U.S. corporate tax bill

BRUSSELS, Belgium — The European Union welcomed final passage in the U.S. Congress of a bill repealing corporate subsidies ruled illegal by the World Trade Organization, but said Thursday it was too soon to lift punitive tariffs on U.S. goods.

EU trade spokeswoman Arancha Gonzalez also said the EU was concerned about the bill's transition period, until 2007, for ending the subsidies as well as "grandfathering clauses" allowing some beneficiaries of the breaks to continue receiving them.

## Albanian bus crash kills at least 14

TIRANA, Albania — A bus carrying high school students from Kosovo back from an excursion crashed into another vehicle and tumbled off a cliff in northern Albania on Thursday, killing at least 14 passengers and injuring up to three dozen others, police and health officials said.

The bus was bringing about 50 teenagers back to neighboring Kosovo after a field trip in Albania when it went over the cliff in Fushe Arre, 105 miles north of the capital, Tirana, a police spokesman said.

## Raid produces Ecstasy stash in Estonia

TALLINN, Estonia — Estonian police discovered more than 300,000 tablets of Ecstasy in a raid on a suspected drug laboratory, officials said Thursday.

The drug lab raided Wednesday in southwestern Estonia had been under surveillance for months. Eight people were arrested.

## Terror group's assets frozen

LONDON — The Bank of England is ordering a freeze on any assets belonging to a terrorist group that claimed responsibility for kidnapping and beheading two Americans and a Briton in Iraq, Treasury chief Gordon Brown said Thursday.

Brown told lawmakers in the House of Commons that he instructed the bank to direct all financial institutions in Britain to freeze any assets of the Tawhid and Jihad group led by Jordanian Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

From The Associated Press

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# Taiwan denies experimenting with plutonium

BY STEPHAN GRAUWELS  
The Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan — Taiwan on Thursday denied that the island's nuclear weapons program — abandoned in the 1980s — involved experimenting with separating plutonium.

Diplomats in Vienna, Austria, said on Wednesday that inspectors with the International Atomic Energy Agency have found samples indicating that plutonium experiments were done about 20 years ago in Taiwan.

But Yang Chao-yie, deputy chairman of the Taiwanese Cabinet's Atomic Energy Council, said the experiments didn't happen. Scientists only researched

the possibility of making nuclear arms, Yang said.

"We never made any plutonium separation experiments, not in the 1980s, and not earlier," Yang said. "The program was just research," he said, without elaborating. The plutonium produced inside a nuclear reactor needs to be separated and purified before it can be used in a nuclear weapon.

Officials at the Vienna-based IAEA said they would not comment on the remarks by the diplomats, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The nuclear program — which started in the 1960s, stopped in the 1970s and was briefly revived in the 1980s — has long been common knowledge on the island.

Andrew Yang, a defense analyst at the Chinese Council of Advanced Policy Studies, a Taipei think tank, said the Taiwanese scientists were trying to process plutonium before the project was shut down under U.S. pressure. It was closed shortly after a Taiwanese military officer, Chang Hsien-yi, defected to America in 1988 with information about the program, the analyst said.

Atomic Energy Council Deputy Chairman Yang said the government now has a policy of complete openness with the IAEA inspectors.

"We completely agree to all the requests the inspectors make, wherever they want to go, when-

ever they want to go. We agree to anything," he said.

The agency's inspections and testing were being conducted as part of voluntary extra controls on Taiwan's peaceful nuclear program agreed to by the government.

But the official said the most recent visit by IAEA inspectors was in August, and it was a routine trip to nuclear plants and a research institute.

Last May, inspectors also came to Taiwan to check whether the island was being transparent enough with its nuclear information.

In the future, the number of visits will be reduced because Taiwan is installing remote-control

monitoring equipment in sensitive locations next year, Yang said.

"The inspectors will be able to find the information they want from their seats in Vienna," he said.

In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhang Qiyue said China is investigating the reports, but can't comment until more is known. Any Taiwanese nuclear weapons program would have been developed with its main rival, China, in mind.

The two sides split amid civil war more than five decades ago, but China has continued to claim the self-ruled island as its own, and has threatened the use of force if Taiwan declares formal independence.

## Even as gas prices soar, 'Britons won't give up their cars'

BY THOMAS WAGNER  
The Associated Press

LONDON — In Britain, drivers pay nearly three times what Americans do for gasoline at the pump, and the high taxes that cause the huge difference have never managed to achieve one of the government's main goals: reducing the number of cars on the road.

But they have dramatically increased the number of small, fuel-efficient cars that Britons drive, and as oil prices continue to climb on world markets, some Britons believe the gas-guzzling United States has to find a way of doing that too.

"Big cars are part of the culture over there. They've got to get out of that mind set," said Rob Surtees, 26, a film location specialist who pulled up at a Texaco station in central London in a Fiat Bravo on Tuesday.

"Every country has to take responsibility for the globe's environment. The Kyoto Accord is at one end of that duty. The amount of gas you use in your car is at the other."

In America, consumers now spend an average of \$1.94 for a gallon for regular fuel. In Britain, that price is \$5.66, making it some of the world's most expensive gas.

For years, British governments have repeatedly raised gas taxes, often over the rate of inflation, with several goals in mind: reducing the number of drivers, improving the environment and raising revenue.

Today, about 75 percent of the price at the pump is tax, compared to an average of about 22 percent



**A filling station near Reading, England, on Tuesday reflects the record oil prices on both sides of the Atlantic, adding to growing concern that the wider economy may suffer.**

in the United States in August. In Britain, where new cars are often expensive, drivers also must pay a heavy sales tax when they buy one, and an annual fee for a driver's permit. On top of that, insurance for cars is mandatory.

People who buy small, fuel-efficient cars are rewarded with a lower sales tax, and such a move can even reduce the amount of income tax that an employee pays for a common perk in the United Kingdom: buying one's own company car.

In addition, Britain is a country whose outmoded and overcrowded trains and subways can sometimes be frustrating.

"Britons won't give up their cars, no matter what the gas price is. They're used to it," said Michael Balla-Goddard, 52, an architect who was filling his Saab at the Texaco station.

"Besides, London subways reduce one to a sardine in a tin can during rush hour."

up its tent only a few feet away from his house outside Helsingborg, on Sweden's southwestern coast, Lindell said.

Circus Mustang officials could not be reached for comment.

### EU court backs ban on laser tag

The European Union's top court Thursday backed a German ban on laser-tag games in which players simulate killing each other in a maze.

"The affront to human dignity posed by that activity justifies a restriction on the freedom to provide services," the European Court of Justice ruled.

Police in the German city of Bonn in 1994 had prohibited a German company, Omega Spielhallen- und Automatenausstattungs-GmbH, from operating a "Laserdrom," a game developed and marketed by a British supplier.

German authorities argued that "acts of simulated homicide and the ensuing trivialization of violence" violated the principle of human dignity enshrined in the German constitution.

From The Associated Press

## U.N.: Africa to brace for AIDS time bomb

BY ANTHONY MITCHELL  
The Associated Press

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia — Africa must brace itself for an AIDS time bomb as 8,000 people are infected with HIV a day in the region worst hit by the pandemic, the United Nations warned Thursday.

Seventy percent of the 45 million people worldwide infected with HIV live in sub-Saharan Africa. Even though the region is home to only 11 percent of the world's population, said a fund set up to combat three of the world's most devastating diseases.

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria said that per capita growth in half of the countries in sub-Saharan Africa is falling by 0.5 to 1.2 percent each year as a direct result of AIDS. By 2010, per capita GDP in some of the hardest-hit countries may drop by 8 percent and per capita consumption may fall even further, the Geneva-based fund said.

"If we think we are seeing an impact today, we have to brace ourselves because it is set to get very much worse in the future," warned Alan Whiteside, member of a commission set up by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan to deal with HIV/AIDS and governance in Africa.

The Commission on HIV/AIDS

and Governance in Africa is calling for a massive scaling up of treatment to prevent a doomsday-style scenario with the collapse of societies under the weight of the pandemic.

Just 50,000 Africans have access to life-prolonging antiretroviral drugs while at least 4 million people are in need, the 20-member commission told several hundred health experts and politicians in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa.

The Global Fund said that the disease is already claiming the lives of thousands of teachers and leading to school closures across sub-Saharan Africa. Health care systems in many countries are overwhelmed by a growing number of HIV/AIDS patients, and studies forecast that health care costs in hardest-hit countries may increase tenfold over the next several years as a result of the pandemic.

Former Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, whose son died of an AIDS-related illness in 1996, made an impassioned appeal to the international community to help the world's poorest continent.

"African governments do not have the capacity to sustain treatment programs at national level," Kaunda said. "They need the support and assistance of the international community in order to scale up treatment programs in a sustainable manner."

### Bank robber in Slovakia stinks

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia — Slovaks were on the lookout for a foul-smelling bank robber Thursday after police said the thief had a nasty odor.

A gun-toting, masked man in his 20s, clad in a green sweat shirt, robbed a bank in the capital and took some 461,000 koruna, about \$14,000.

Tosevova said it was unclear whether the smell was caused by the thief having stepped into dog droppings or whether he soiled himself during the robbery.

### Circus elephants trample lawn

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — A homeowner in southern Sweden filed a police complaint after four circus elephants broke loose from their trainers and ran into his back yard, trampling the hedge and the lawn, a police spokesman said Thursday.

Matilda Lindell, 29, said the elephants completely ruined his garden Monday, after animal trainers working for German-based Circus Mustang lost control of the pachyderms when removing them from the vehicles they travel in. The circus had put

## Uzbek police hunt for potential bomber

BY AZIZ NURITOV  
The Associated Press

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan — Uzbek police are searching for a Kazakh woman who allegedly underwent terrorist training as a suicide bomber who could be planning an attack, officials said Thursday.

Wanted posters in the capital, Tashkent, displayed a photograph of the woman from southern Kazakhstan and warned she may be in possession of an explosives-laden belt.

Oleg Bichenov, who heads the Tashkent police's anti-terrorism department, said authorities had received information from neighboring countries that the woman was misbehaving in their country and had possibly crossed into Uzbekistan.

Meanwhile, Surat Ikramov, an independent rights activist, said Thursday that authorities have arrested relatives of the woman in the last week for their alleged role in attacks earlier this year that killed 47 people.

## IN THE STATES

## Bush camp admits, shrugs off, Kerry debate gains

## Polls after intense, 3rd debate show candidates in virtual tie

BY SCOTT LINDLAU  
The Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — Sen. John Kerry gained ground in the race for the White House in the trio of campaign debates, a top official in President Bush's campaign conceded Thursday, but insisted that any advantage would prove fleeting.

"I think it was temporary," Marc Racicot, Bush's campaign chairman, told reporters on the morning after the president and Kerry collided in an intense final debate that sharpened differences over the war in Iraq, the economy, health care and abortion.

Racicot spoke as Bush and his Democratic rival set out on a 19-day campaign sprint to Election Day, concentrating their time and advertising on a dozen or so battleground states that will settle the election. The ubiquitous polls made their race a virtual dead heat.

The Democratic Party was quick to publicize what it called a debate "threepart" for Kerry, launching two videos that mocked Bush's performance. One shows Bush talking about Osama bin Laden and telling White House reporters, "I truly am not so concerned about him. I know he is on the run," then denying during the debate that he had ever said it.

The other video shows Bush laughing when asked about uninsured Americans.

Bush played down negative reviews of his debate performances.

"The pundits and the spinners — they all have their opinions but there's only one opinion that matters and that's the opinion of the American people on Nov. 2," he told reporters during a rare visit to the press cabin on Air Force One. "I feel great about where we are."

"My spirits are high," Bush declared. "I'm enthusiastic about my chances."

For undecided voters, Wednesday night's debate was a chance to comparison-shop. Kerry cast himself as champion of the little guy and Bush the guardian of the wealthy, branding the president as reckless with the federal budget and the use of American force.

Bush labeled Kerry a do-nothing liberal senator with questionable credibility and an insatiable appetite for taxes.

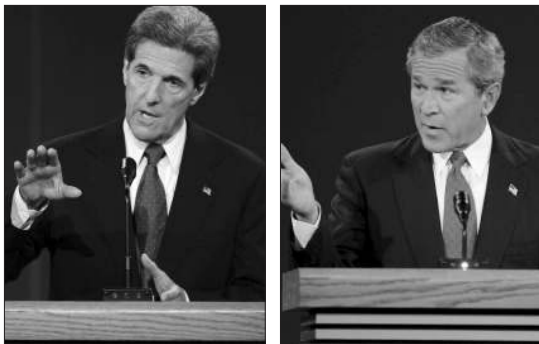
Both candidates said they believe marriage should remain a union of a man and a woman but that gay Americans should be treated with respect. Kerry cited Mary Cheney, the vice president's openly gay daughter and an official in the campaign, as a lesbian who probably would say being gay is not a matter of choice.

That drew a rebuke at a post-debate rally from Lynne Cheney, the vice president's wife. She called Kerry "not a good man" and his reference to her daughter "a cheap and tawdry political trick."

Bush seemed to find his stride after two debates that most viewers and analysts thought he lost. He stilled most of the facial expressions that marred his first performance, ending each answer with a smile, though the president occasionally captured him dropping it abruptly a few seconds later. After letting his voice rise to a shout during the second debate, Bush let it down, speaking more softly.

Kerry was seen as the winner in two of three post-debate polls, while the third found the two tied. Assessing all the debates combined, Racicot said Kerry "did provide himself some temporary assistance with the first debate that got more leavened in the second debate and then began to dissipate at a whatever unknown rate with last night's performance."

"Just think he was on his heels most of the night," he added.



Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry, left, and President Bush respond to questions during the third and final presidential debate Wednesday night in Tempe, Ariz.

## Hot topics: Health care, economy

BY DAN BALZ  
AND JIM VANDEHEI  
The Washington Post

TEMPE, Ariz. — President Bush and John Kerry battled sharply over domestic issues Wednesday night in the final debate of the 2004 campaign. The Democratic nominee charged that the president has compiled a record of failure on the economy and health care, and Bush accused Kerry of a Senate record that is both out of the mainstream and lacking in accomplishment.

Kerry repeatedly sought to put Bush on the defensive, charging that he has allowed the economy to go backward, has turned budget surpluses into deficits and has stood by as millions of Americans have lost their health insurance.

The president tried to parry those attacks by challenging Kerry's record during his 20 years in

the Senate, accusing him of repeatedly voting to raise taxes, of failing to do anything significant to reform health care and of favoring health care changes that would greatly enhance the federal government's power.

"He's... the only president in 72 years to lose jobs — 1.6 million jobs lost," Kerry said. "He's the only president to have incomes of families go down for the last three years, the only president to see exports go down, the only president to see the lowest level of business investment in our country as it is today. Now, I'm going to reverse that. I'm going to change that. We're going to restore the fiscal discipline we had in the 1960s."

Bush scoffed at Kerry's statements, saying: "His rhetoric doesn't match his record. He's been a senator for 20 years. He's voted to increase taxes 98 times. When they tried to reduce taxes, he voted against that 127 times. He talks about being a fiscal conservative, or fiscally sound, but he voted over — he voted 277 times to waive the budget caps, which would have cost the taxpayers \$4.2 trillion."

Amid the exchange of charges and countercharges, Bush and Kerry spoke personally about the role of faith and religion in their lives and how that animates their view of governing. They also occasionally played fast and loose with facts and each repeatedly charged the other with distortions and inaccuracies.

The latest Washington Post-ABC News tracking poll, completed before the debate, showed Kerry at 49 percent and Bush at 48 percent among likely voters — the first time Kerry has been ahead in that poll since early August.

With the debates behind them, the candidates will begin a

three-week run that will take them through fewer than a dozen truly competitive battleground states as they attempt to appeal to the relatively small pool of undecided voters and mobilize their strongest supporters for a wide-spread get-out-the-vote operation.

The debate, held at Arizona State University and moderated by Bob Schieffer of CBS News, covered broad terrain, with the candidates discussing Social Security, education, gun control, affirmative action, same-sex marriage, immigration, abortion and the lack of flu vaccine.

The heart of the debate was bread-and-butter issues, with Kerry arguing that Bush has favored the wealthy over the middle class with tax cuts and the president warning middle-class voters that a Kerry administration would mean higher taxes not only on the wealthy but on average Americans as well, describing Kerry's talk as "bait and switch" politics.

In one of the sharpest exchanges, Kerry warned that Bush's plan to allow workers to put a small percentage of their Social Security taxes into private investment accounts is "an invitation to disaster" that would cost too much and be too risky. Bush has not detailed a plan, but experts say any plan to partly privatize the system would carry a short-term cost of at least \$1 trillion and perhaps twice that amount to make up for the shortfall during the transition.

Bush said Kerry's plan to do nothing would be far more dangerous. "I want to warn my fellow citizens. The cost of doing nothing, the cost of saying the current system is OK, far exceeds the costs of trying to make sure we save the system for our children," Bush said.

## Nader flap prompts request to extend deadline for overseas absentee votes

The Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. — A federal judge will hear arguments next week on a request by the Justice Department to give military families and overseas voters in Pennsylvania until after the Nov. 2 election to submit absentee ballots for president.

U.S. District Judge Yvette Kane set the hearing for Tuesday after a state court knocked Ralph Nader off Pennsylvania's presidential ballot.

The judge had initially declined to rule on the request until state courts resolved whether Nader could be listed on the ballot as an independent presidential candidate.

On Wednesday, a state court removed Nader from the ballot, citing thousands of fraudulent signatures including "Mickey Mouse" and "Fred Flintstone."



Nader

The federal government had asked that voters be given extra time to cast ballots because of confusion over Nader's candidacy.

The Justice Department contended that Nader's on-again-off-again status caused some counties last month to mail ballots that listed him as a candidate while others sent ballots that omitted his name.

An extension of the deadline for overseas ballots could delay the tabulation of the presidential vote if the contest for Pennsylvania's 21 electoral votes — the nation's fifth-largest prize — is as close as some polls suggest.

# Accuracy of some statements debatable

BY CALVIN WOODWARD  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The last persistent debate highlighted words President Bush forgot he had spoken, a meeting John Kerry thought never happened, but did, and a refusal on both sides to back off questionable statements that would occasionally become classics through repetition.

Kerry claimed once more that Bush has lost 1.6 million jobs, about twice as many as have actually disappeared. The persistent discrepancy comes from his not saying that the losses he speaks of are in the private sector, and are mitigated by job gains in public service. He let go of another regular misstatement, however, this time using an accurate figure on the cost of the Iraq war.

Bush again declared of his opponent, "He voted to increase taxes 99 times," which he said he had not taken at all to mean Kerry has

## Fact is, both candidates found ways to stretch truth

voted for that many tax increases. Independent analysis has found the list of 98 includes multiple votes for single measures and votes that set targets without having any effect on the tax code.

Beyond those familiar features of the debates, ads and news, the candidates slipped or stretched in fresh ways in their final encounter before the Nov. 2 election.

Kerry accurately quoted Bush as saying he does not think much about Osama bin Laden and is not at all that concerned about him. The president protested: "I just don't think I ever said I'm not worried about Osama bin Laden. It's kind of one of those exaggerations."

But in March 2002, Bush indeed said, "I truly am not that concerned about him. I know he is on the run." He described the terrorist leader as "marginalized," and said, "I just don't spend that much time on him."

Kerry, trying to show Bush has paid too little heed to civil rights, stated flatly, "This is a president who hasn't met with the black congressional caucus." Actually, Bush met the Congressional Black Caucus at the White House within two weeks of taking office, and called his opponent on it.

Also in the debate:

■ Kerry declared, "I have a plan to cover all Americans" with health insurance, but even his campaign does not contend his blueprint would eliminate the ranks of the uninsured. Independent analysts say full implementation of Kerry's plan would extend coverage to about 25 million of the nearly 45 million uninsured.

He also said Bush has cut Pell grants, but later altered the accusation when the president pointed out accurately that about 1 mil-

lion more students are getting the aid than when he took office.

■ Bush talked about how he signed the bill creating the Homeland Security Department, putting that on his list of actions that have made the country safer. But he was a convert to that cause, at first opposing the massive government reorganization.

■ Kerry reverted to what is believed to be the accurate figure for the cost of the Iraq war so far, after he and his running mate John Edwards had been suggesting \$200 billion had already been spent.

■ Kerry sharply criticized Bush on port security inspections of ship cargo, saying "95 percent can in today uninspected. That's not good enough."

Kerry's claim ignores that the majority of all U.S.-bound cargo are screened before they reach

American ports and all high-risk cargo is identified. U.S. officials then physically inspect the high-risk cargo.

On whether the inspections are adequate, a new report by the Homeland Security Department internal investigator that surfaced Wednesday concluded federal inspectors of oceangoing shipping containers still need to improve their detection equipment and search procedures to prevent terrorists from sneaking weapons of mass destruction into the United States.

■ Bush acknowledged his current support for a constitutional amendment mandating marriage as a union between a man and a woman without acknowledging that back in the 2000 Republican primary, he said the issue of banning gay marriage belongs to the states. It's a position Vice President Dick Cheney still holds today.

Associated Press writer Siobhan McDonough contributed to this report.

# Lovers and haters: Views of Bush will decide election

BY MICHAEL TACKETT  
Chicago Tribune

WASHINGTON — After the third and final debate of this presidential campaign, the race in many ways can be reduced to this: a contest between the lovers and the haters.

The lovers are those who hold great affection for George W. Bush, his philosophy of government, his socially conservative beliefs and his resolve on issues like Iraq and the war on terror. The haters are those who can't stand the president for precisely the same reasons.

## Analysis

There hasn't been a grand embrace of challenger John Kerry, and even in the waning days before the election, a Kerry agenda is still not easy to define.

But if the country were electing a shouter-in-chief after three rounds, most would give the title to the Democrat.

His performances were more even and consistent, his presentation of facts and command of issues more clear. On this night, his burden was obvious: to persuade people to deny the president a second term, to point out with precision what the haters hate most.

The motivation to vote against someone is often more powerful than the desire to vote for someone, and in that sense, the president faces a perilous finish to the campaign. He will be relying on his legion of lovers and hope that the haters have hit the wall. He is still stoking the energy of Republican partisans, painting Kerry with the familiar "out of the mainstream" brush, while Kerry tries to believe that the states people to be won over in the increasingly small lane in the middle of the road, especially undecided women voters.

The 90-minute session focused almost entirely on the issues that form the fault lines of American



Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., and President faced off Wednesday for the third and final presidential debate in Tempe, Ariz.

politics — abortion, affirmative action, gay marriage, faith, taxes and the role of government in health care and education. On each of those issues, the debate served to outline distinct differences between the two men.

Of all the things that voters might say they lack when they cast ballots in November, a clear choice should not be one of them.

The incumbent president in a time of war and a troubled economy faced the greater challenge of defending his record. There were simply more targets for Kerry to

attack. But the president also played on the dangers the nation faces as part of his contention that a chance for Kerry is not a chance worth taking.

Yet the president was put on the defensive several times, especially about the economy. Asked what he might say to a worker who had lost a job to outsourcing to a foreign country with lower wages, the president responded that education was the best kind of government jobs program in the long run. How that will play in states like Ohio, Pennsylvania

and Missouri, which have lost tens of thousands of manufacturing jobs, is unclear.

On social issues, the president was far clearer in his views. He will no doubt help him energize Republican partisans, but might be unlikely to win over many in the shrinking pool of undecided voters. He said he didn't know if homosexuality was a "choice" as opposed to a birthright, but he reiterated his call for a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage. In addition, he refused the chance to say that a woman had a

constitutional right to choose an abortion.

That provided a clear opening to Kerry to appeal to women voters, whom polls suggest have been gravitating toward the Democrat since the first debate in Coral Gables, Fla., last month. Kerry said he would only support a justice to the Supreme Court who believed in the constitutional right to an abortion.

Each candidate clearly entered the debate with a couple of loaded lines that they were ready to fire off at an appropriate moment.

Neither man's effort was particularly successful, but the president's almost-forced efforts to caricature Kerry as a Massachusetts liberal to the left of Sen. Ted Kennedy appeared to fail decidedly flat, except to the hard-core partisans who can never hear enough of that kind of talk.

They no doubt also enjoyed Bush's dig at the integrity of the major broadcast network news operations. For his part, Kerry's analogy to Tony Soprano is unlikely to be part of any permanent debate highlight reel either.

Wednesday's debate in Tempe likely signaled the last big national moment of the campaign, the final time when millions of Americans paid intense attention to the race. The candidates are likely to revert to rote of their stump speeches and the grind of travel from tarmac to tarmac, narrow-cast to hit as many select television markets as possible. Good morning, Dayton. Good morning, Dearborn.

Incumbents who don't win debates — Gerald Ford in 1976, Jimmy Carter in 1980 and George H.W. Bush in 1992 — haven't fared well on Election Day. There is a presumption in the electorate that presidents are supposed to be able to perform on television under pressure.

They are supposed to be able not only to defend their term in office but also to persuade that they deserve another. The president has three more weeks to make that case.

# Snail-mail ballots a hit with Oregon voters

By BRAD CAIN  
The Associated Press

SALEM, Ore. — While other states pursue high-tech voting machines in hopes of avoiding a repeat of the Florida fiasco of 2000, Oregon proudly continues with its uniquely low-tech system of voting by mail.

Oregon abolished polling-place elections in 1998. The result is that Election Day 2004 in Oregon will actually be a 19-day affair that begins Friday with 2 million ballots being sent to the homes of registered voters.

They can then cast their ballots

in the comfort of their own home and on their own timetable before mailing them back to local election offices before Nov. 2. Voters can also hand-deliver their ballots to designated drop sites on Election Day.

Voters seem highly satisfied with the switch, but other states are leery of following the lead of Oregon, a battleground state won by Democrat Al Gore in 2000.

"Oregon has been proselytizing this system aggressively, but there is unease about it" in other states, said Norm Ornstein, a political analyst at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C.

Ornstein and other analysts worry about fraud, as well as the potential for coercion that arises when family members fill out ballots together at home.

"Voting at a polling place provides a zone of privacy," he said. "Oregon's culture may not encourage corrupt activities, but that doesn't stop husbands looking over the shoulders of their wives while they are voting."

State officials say elections have been squeaky clean, and they tout the convenience of the system.

"People can actually study

their voting materials, and they can mark their ballots at the kitchen table," Oregon Secretary of State Bill Bradbury said. "It's a wonderful recognition of people's busy lives."

Plus, vote-by-mail has been successful in boosting voter turnout around reducing election costs, Bradbury said.

Nancy Dunn, a health care consultant and registered voter, is an enthusiastic supporter of vote-by-mail.

"I love it," the Salem resident said. "I can sit on my couch, in the quiet of my own home, and not

feel pressured to vote quickly. You can take your time and vote at your own convenience."

Critics of Oregon's system say it is open to abuse because it allows political campaigns to keep track of which voters cast ballots during the 19-day voting period. It is perfectly legal for political parties to contact people who have not voted yet and to offer to deliver their ballots for them to local election offices.

For example, America Coming Together, a group backing Democrat John Kerry, plans to send out teams of volunteers to collect ballots from voters the group has identified or registered.

## Lynne Cheney complains Kerry pulled 'cheap shot'

By JOE MANDAK  
The Associated Press

CORALPOOLS, Pa. — Lynne Cheney accused Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry of pulling a "cheap and tawdry political trick," apparently for invoking her daughter's sexuality in his debate with President Bush.

Asked Wednesday night whether homosexuality is a vice, Kerry noted that one of Vice President Dick Cheney's daughters is a lesbian, and said she would probably affirm that she was born that way.

"We're all God's children," Kerry said during the debate in Tempe, Ariz.

Lynne Cheney made clear she

thought Kerry had crossed a line into family privacy when she introduced her husband to a supportive crowd of 800 after a debate-watching party in the Pittsburgh suburb of Coralpoles.

"Now, you know, I did have a chance to assess John Kerry once more and now the only thing I could conclude: This is not a good man," she said.

"Of course, I am speaking as a mom, and a pretty indignant mom."

This is not a good man. What a cheap and tawdry political trick."

She was not so specific. The vice president didn't raise the matter in his remarks.

Bush said in the debate he did not know whether homosexuality was a choice or fate.

## TV networks putting faith in new system to project winner

By DAVID BAUDER  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Determined to avoid a repeat of high-profile failures in 2000 and 2002, television networks will rely on new systems on Nov. 2 to help project election winners and analyze why voters made their choices.

The six news organizations that have formed the National Election Pool — ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, Fox News Channel and the AP — say they're confident they will get better this time, based on test runs and the experience of people involved.

Still, the TV networks said they would be careful projecting winners after prematurely declaring a winner in the 2000 election.

"We're just going to really, really be cautious," said Marty Ryan, Fox News Channel's executive producer for political coverage.

When we think we have it, we'll wait a few minutes and look again. Then we'll wait a few minutes and look again."

The networks blamed Voter News Service, the company they had formed to count votes and conduct exit polls, for faulty data that led to the wrong calls in 2000. VNS tried to rebuild its system, but it broke down on election night 2002 and failed to provide usable exit polling information. VNS was then disbanded.

This time, the news organizations contracted with two veteran polling companies — Mitofsky International and Edison Media Research — to conduct exit polls. AP will be the sole source for vote counts.

Mason said technical adjustments were made to increase reliability. NEP will conduct exit polling in more voter precincts and have access to a greater number of past vote counts to use on a comparison basis.

Precautions are being taken to guard against human error as well. Using past elections as a guide, the AP's computer system is designed to spit out a warning if figures are skewed that are significantly at odds with expected patterns.

## Edwards tests funny side on Leno show

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD  
The Associated Press

BURBANK, Calif. — John Edwards has a theory about what was hidden underneath an unusual wrinkle that appeared on the back of President Bush's suit jacket during his first debate with John Kerry.

"I think it was his battery," a grinning Edwards told Jay Leno on "The Tonight Show" on Tuesday.

"I think tomorrow, before the debate, John Kerry ought to pat him down," Edwards said, referring to the final Bush-Kerry matchup, scheduled for Wednesday in Arizona.

The Democratic vice presidential nominee, making his second appearance on the comedian's stage this year, was in turns silly and serious while chatting about issues from Iraq to chubby Secret Service agents.



Democratic vice presidential candidate Sen. John Edwards talks with "Tonight Show" host Jay Leno during his appearance on the show Tuesday at NBC studios in Burbank, Calif.

Leno asked Edwards if he could beat the president in a foot race.

Edwards, who said he jogged about five miles Tuesday, reminded the audience he played football as a student. Bush, he noted, was on a cheering squad.

Bush "was on the side, with his pompons," the North Carolina senator said. "I don't know, can

you run fast with those cheerleading outfits on?"

Earlier, at a campaign stop in Colorado, Edwards attacked President Bush and Cheney as "out of touch." He didn't let up on Leno's show.

When Leno showed a clip of Kerry windsurfing, Edwards said, "If I had to spend 90 minutes on a stage with George Bush, I'd want to clear my head too."

## First lady sees future of working with youth

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Looking beyond Election Day, first lady Laura Bush said Tuesday that if her husband is elected to a second term she would like to help juvenile delinquents with substance abuse problems.

Mrs. Bush, in an hourlong interview on CNN's "Larry King Live," said she has been reading about drug and alcohol problems among teenagers who run into problems with the law.

"And I just would be interested to see if there is something we could do for those young people who get in trouble. Some sort of recovery method ... that would let them have a more normal life after that," said the former teacher and librarian who has made reading one of her signature issues since George W. Bush took office in January 2001.

But she did not rule out returning to the head of the class if there isn't a second Bush term.

"Yes, I'd love to teach," she said. "I'd definitely work with schoolyard."

Mrs. Bush said she's also looking forward to grandchildren — though she isn't expecting any yet from her 22-year-old twin daughters, Barbara and Jenna, both recent college graduates.

"Don't worry. They're not about to get married. Neither one of them have somebody they're going to marry, but I wish," she said.

If her future doesn't hold another four years in the White House, Mrs. Bush likely won't miss what she said she detests most about being first lady: the lack of privacy.

Despite relinquishing her anonymity, Mrs. Bush said she has been able to slip unnoticed into New York City to go shopping, even with a security entourage trailing her.

"They are, but if they're pretty discreet, then New Yorkers are not looking at everyone on the street. They're looking straight ahead," she said.



Bush



## OPINION

## By design, ... fiddles while Darfur burns

BY NEWT GINGRICH

For more than six months, U.N. observers, delegations from the House and Senate and aid workers from organizations such as Amnesty International and Doctors Without Borders have witnessed and spoken out about what the U.S. State Department has correctly called the genocide that is being committed in Darfur by the Janjaweed militias. Despite its repeated denials, it is clear that the government of Sudan is funding these attacks.

Gingrich

Yet in the face of all the evidence, incredibly, Sudan continues to hold a seat on the U.N. Commission on Human Rights. How can that be? How, if that is the case, can the commission have any moral standing whatsoever? How can it effect change or protect human rights? It seems plain and obvious that Sudan must be stripped of its seat and that it cannot possibly sit in judgment of the human rights records of other countries. Yet under U.N. rules, that's exactly how the Commission on Human Rights operates.

Consider the facts. Since February 2003, more than 50,000 people are believed to have been killed in the Darfur region, and 1.4 million more have been driven from their homes. Amnesty International has called these assaults "crimes against humanity," and U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan has called the situation in Darfur the world's worst current humanitarian crisis.

Clearly, the government responsible for such heinous acts is not the ideal entity for having setting standards by which other countries' human rights records are judged. Yet U.N. policy is that the human rights records of the 53 countries that sit on the commission may not be assessed as a prerequisite to serving on the panel. That means there is no mechanism to protect the commission from being manipulated by governments that routinely abuse human rights.

As a result, over the years the commission has been corrupted by political games that have allowed some of the world's worst human rights abusers to sit in judgment of others—and to shield themselves from criticism. Known human rights abusers, including Algeria, Cuba, Syria, Iran, Pakistan and Zimbabwe, have served on the commission. Last year Libya was elected to chair the panel by a bloc of African and Middle Eastern nations. The consequences are unmistakable: While the victims of abuse and torture suffer and die, the commission systematically ignores their plight and blocks efforts for intervention.

If the commission is to have any meaning, the African nations that decree that countries charged with genocide and countries with totalitarian governments are not eligible to serve. And the Security Council must remove Sudan from the commission and ask the African nations that nominated it to appoint a respectable member.

The United Nations cannot continue on its current course with regard to the crisis in Sudan. Despite the abundance of evidence and outrage, the most effective action the Security Council has taken to date has been a resolution giving Sudan 30 days to disarm the Janjaweed. Those 30 days expired Aug.



30. A feckless Sept. 18 resolution threatening, but not actually applying, sanctions against Sudan's oil industry has only served to buy more time for the regime, as has Annan's call for an "impartial commission" to investigate.

Speaking last month when the U.S. Senate passed a resolution calling for Sudan's removal from the commission, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., had it right when he said that "the 1948 Genocide Convention calls on states-parties to 'prevent and punish' genocide when it occurs. If we are going to preserve the credibility of the United Nations and its separate commissions, advance the cause of human rights

and protect oppressed people around the globe, then the U.N. must take more aggressive action."

This is a test of the integrity and decency of the United Nations as an institution. Continued inaction against Sudan will only encourage more deaths, not only in Sudan but at the hands of future tyrants who understand all too well the unwillingness and inability of the United Nations to put aside internal politics to stop them.

Newt Gingrich, a Georgia Republican who was speaker of the House from 1995 to 1999, is a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, a Washington think tank. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

## Conservative political theory not followed on Iraq

BY PAUL CAMPOS

Imagine if a handful of extra chads had ended up dangling in Al Gore's favor four years ago, and he had then gone on to invade and occupy Iraq, for the same reasons the Bush administration has given for undertaking those actions. The instinctive response to this hypothetical is to claim that because Gore is a liberal, he would never have engaged in something like the Iraq war.

The irony is that the administration's Iraq policy exemplifies what classic conservative political theorists have identified as the fundamental weaknesses of the liberal worldview. Specifically:

■ Conservative political theory recognizes that human reason is a far less powerful tool than shallowly optimistic liberal rationalists have us believe. Grandiose claims about the ability of experts to predict and control the future are characteristic of liberal intellectual arrogance.

■ Conservative political theory has always emphasized that human cultures are by nature immensely complex things, and that each culture has its own logic and structure, which will be difficult for outsiders to understand. In particular, conservative thinkers deride the liberal delusion that imposing one culture's laws and institutions on another will automatically transform the latter into something that resembles the former.

■ Conservative thinkers have made particularly devastating criticisms of liberal thought by pointing out the extent to which liberalism has failed to grasp that religious belief and nationalist sentiment remain overwhelmingly powerful forces in human affairs.

Now consider how these insights apply to the Iraq war.

The architects of that war have a grand strategic vision: By replacing Saddam Hussein's brutal regime with a government friendly to Western values, the Middle East will be transformed eventually from a region governed by dysfunctional dictatorships and religious fanaticism into an area where democracy, free markets and the rule of law are welcomed rather than despised.

This is, to put it mildly, an ambitious scheme. Under that, the Western world's most knowledgeable Iraq experts were completely wrong about whether Saddam possessed weapons of mass destruction.

Yet the Bush administration claims it makes sense to continue to occupy Iraq on the basis of its views regarding an al-

most infinitely more complicated question: whether Iraq can be transformed into a democracy, and what effect such a transformation would have on the rest of the Middle East.

Now consider the means by which this transformation is supposed to take place: by holding the first real elections in the nation's history, less than two years after the overthrow of Saddam's regime, and while something resembling a civil war continues to be fought in Iraq itself.

Imagine if another nation's military overthrew the United States government, and its leaders announced that, within a year or two, America was going to be transformed into an Islamic republic. It doesn't require one of the great minds of conservative political thought to recognize the absurdity of such a plan. Yet how different is this from what the Bush ad-

ministration proposes to do in Iraq? The Iraq insurgency illustrates the extent to which diverse groups will put aside their desire to kill each other to fight against outsiders who trigger feelings of religious fervor and nationalism.

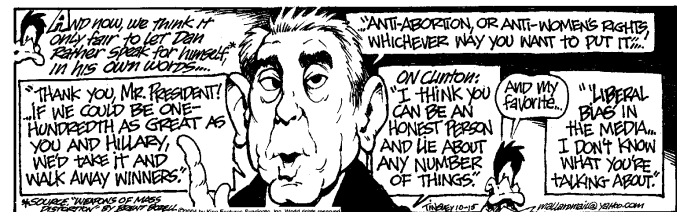
In particular, the suicide bomb — a figure that must remain incomprehensible to those who cling to the shallow rationalism characteristic of so much liberal thought — is someone who classic conservative thinkers would have understood perfectly well.

That the Iraq war is a reckless adventure in utopian internationalism, made possible by the naïveté to which liberal thought has always been prone, would be obvious if it were not being prosecuted by an administration that, in the face of all evidence, calls itself conservative.

Paul Campos is a law professor at the University of Colorado in Boulder. He writes this column for *Stars and Stripes*. Send him e-mail at [pcampos@colorado.edu](mailto:pcampos@colorado.edu).

## Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



# U.S. deficit at second highest level in history

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. trade deficit, propelled by a record foreign oil bill, surged to \$54 billion in August, the second highest level in history. The politically sensitive deficit with China hit a new high as American retailers upped their orders for cell phones, toys and televisions.

The Commerce Department said the August trade deficit in goods and services was 6.9 percent higher than a \$50.5 billion imbalance in July. A small 0.1 percent rise in exports was dwarfed by a 2.5 percent jump in imports.

For the year, America's trade deficit is running at a record annual rate of \$590 billion, 19 percent higher than the previous record, last year's \$496.5 billion imbalance.

Imports climbed 2.5 percent to a record \$150.1 billion in August, reflecting a 12.2 percent jump in petroleum shipments, which rose to a record \$15.6 billion last month.

U.S. exports edged up 0.1 percent to \$96 billion in August following an even larger 3 percent gain in July. Economists are hoping that an improving global econ-

omy will lift sales of American goods overseas. Sales of American cars and auto parts did hit a record, rising to \$7.8 billion in August.

The U.S. trade performance has become an issue in the presidential race with Democratic challenger John Kerry charging that President Bush has not done enough to protect American workers from unfair trade practices from low wage countries such as China.

In Wednesday night's final debate, Kerry criticized Bush for failing to pursue an unfair trade

practice complaint against China on the grounds that it has rigged its currency system to keep the yuan undervalued by as much as 40 percent against the U.S. dollar, giving Chinese products a huge competitive advantage against American goods.

In a second economic report, the Labor Department said the number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits rose by 15,000 last week to a seasonally adjusted level of 352,000.

The four-week moving average of claims, which smooths out

weekly changes, rose by 4,000 to a seven-month high of 352,000.

The report on jobless claims reflects a labor market that is continuing to confound economists' expectations. The country added a lower-than-expected 96,000 jobs in September as the unemployment rate held steady at 5.4 percent.

In August, the trade deficit with China climbed to a record \$18.1 billion, pushed higher by a surge in demand for cell phones, toys and games, televisions and VCRs, reflecting efforts by U.S. retailers to stock their shelves in advance of the holiday shopping season.

## St. Helens emits lava, forming new dome

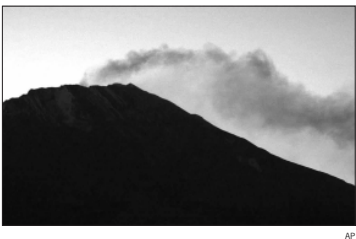
BY PEGGY ANDERSEN  
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — The ongoing dome-building eruption at Mount St. Helens has produced glowing red lava that can be seen in nighttime aerial views of the peak, scientists say.

Low-hanging clouds and steam from the 8,364-foot volcano also reflect the glow of red-hot molten rock surfacing at nearly 1,300 degrees Fahrenheit, making it visible from the valley below the crater's north side.

The emerging "fin" of rock "appears to have grown somewhat" from an earlier estimate of 60 to 90 feet tall and 150 to 180 feet wide, but as of late Wednesday scientists had not developed new measurements, geologist Tina Neal of the U.S. Geological Survey said at the Cascades Volcano Observatory in Vancouver, Wash.

Scientists pegged the growth rate at about 2 to 3 cubic meters a second, enough to fill an Olympic-size swimming pool in about



Mount St. Helens gives off steam down the west side as the volcano as its lava dome-building activity continues in southwest Washington on Wednesday morning.

15 minutes, and geologist Willie Scott has dubbed the new formation "the 21st century dome," said Jeff Wynn, chief scientist for volcano hazards.

The growth indicates lava is continuing to emerge within the crater, Neal said. The growing mass is just behind an existing dome that began forming in the months after St. Helens blew its top on May 18, 1980.

The fin, about 75 degrees, has a pinkish cast "like medium roast beef," and the eerie glow from within the crater "is entirely consistent with these kinds of temperatures," Neal said.

New instruments were placed

on the emerging mass by helicopter Tuesday. The equipment may not last long because of falling rock and other hazards, but the information they provide while they last will be helpful, Neal said.

She and other scientists say they don't know how long the eruption might continue or whether it will be marked by explosive blasts of ash.

Mount St. Helens has been the most active volcano in the lower 48 states and Canada over the past 4,500 years.

Seismic levels remained low at the mountain, indicating a steady flow of magma inside the volcano, Neal said.

## Producer accuses O'Reilly of sexual harassment

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Bill O'Reilly, whose Fox News Channel show is the highest-rated cable news program, has been accused of sexual harassment by one of his producers. O'Reilly says the complaint is a politically motivated extortion attempt.

Both sides filed lawsuits Wednesday, with the woman, Andrea Mackris, saying the commentator had phone sex with her against her wishes three times. She has a claim against Mackris and her attorney, Benedict Morelli. O'Reilly said Morelli demanded \$60 million in "hush money" to not file the lawsuit.

"As a public figure, I have received many threats," he said. "But enough is enough ... The



O'Reilly

threats stop now. I will not give in to extortion." Mackris, 33, is an associate producer on "The O'Reilly Factor," a job she returned to in July after a short stint at CNN.

During a phone conversation this August, Mackris, 33, said O'Reilly suggested she buy a vibrator and was clearly excited.

Before hanging up, she said, O'Reilly told her: "I appreciate the fun phone call."

She contended he made a simi-

lar call Sept. 21, ending that one by saying: "Next time you'll come up to my hotel room and we'll make this happen."

O'Reilly's lawyer, Ronald Green, said he believes there are tapes of conversations between the two and asked a court to compel Mackris to produce them so they could be played publicly.

Morelli would not comment on whether any taped phone conversations exist.

Besides the attempt for money, O'Reilly charged that his accuser and her lawyer were trying to embarrass him and Fox News Channel three weeks before the election. Morelli, he said, is a contributor to the Democratic Party. "The O'Reilly Factor" is a particular favorite among Republican viewers.

## Implantable chip holds medical data

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Privacy advocates are concerned that an implantable microchip designed to help doctors tap into a patient's medical records could undermine confidentiality or could even be used to track the patient's movements.

"If privacy protections aren't built in at the outset, there could be harmful consequences for patients," said Emily Stewart, a policy analyst at the Health Privacy Project.

The Food and Drug Administration said Wednesday that Applied Digital Solutions of Delray Beach, Fla., could market the VeriChip, an implantable computer chip about the size of a grain of rice, for storing medical information.

With the pinch of a syringe, the microchip is inserted under the skin in a procedure that takes less than 20 minutes and requires no stitches. Silently and invisibly, the dormant chip stores a code that releases patient-specific information when a scanner passes over it.

The VeriChip itself contains no medical records, just codes that can be scanned and revealed in a doctor's office or hospital. With

that code, doctors can unlock part of a secure database that holds the patient's medical information, including allergies and prior treatment. The electronic database, not the chip, would be updated with each medical visit.

The microchips have already been implanted in 1 million patients. But the chip's possible use to track people's movements — in addition to speeding delivery of medical information to emergency rooms — has raised alarm.

The company's chief executive officer, Scott R. Silverman, said chips implanted for medical uses could also be used for security purposes, like tracking employee movement, through nuclear power plants.

Stewart said that to protect patient privacy, the devices should reveal only vital medical information, like blood type and allergic reactions, needed for health care workers to do their jobs.

To kickstart the chip's use among humans, Applied Digital would provide \$650 scanners for free at 200 of the nation's trauma centers.

In pets, implanting the chip costs owners about \$50. For humans, the chip implantation cost would be \$150 to \$200, said Angela Fulcher, an Applied Digital spokeswoman.

## 'Three-strikes' revisited

LOS ANGELES — California voters are taking a second whack at "three-strikes" guidelines a decade after they first passed the nation's toughest sentencing law.

In essence, Proposition 66 turns on the question of how justice should be administered: Is the goal retribution, or another chance? If the latter, are you looking at a wholesale bloodbath," said Mike Reynolds, who galvanized California's three-strikes movement following his daughter's 1992 murder.

The ballot measure is among the most hard-fought of the 16 propositions that Californians will decide this year.

Polling suggests voters may

opt to change current law. A poll released Wednesday shows nearly two-thirds of likely voters support the proposition.

## Suspect used visa

TRENTON, N.J. — A senior al-Qaida operative accused of conducting surveillance on U.S. financial buildings as possible terror targets had entered the United States on a student visa, according to a newspaper report.

FBI agent Joseph Billy Jr. told The Record of Bergen County for a story in Thursday editions that the operative lived in New Jersey and attended several schools there while carrying out the reconnaissance operation.

From The Associated Press

# Elderly get priority for scarce flu shots

## Drug store diverts supply to nursing home

BY MICHELLE SPITZER

The Associated Press

JOHNSTON, Iowa — Health officials are scurrying to secure flu vaccines so the elderly, who are most vulnerable to influenza, have first access to shots after the nation's supply was cut in half.

"We're begging, borrowing and stealing from every source we can come up with," said Paula Frank, a clinical consulting nurse for the Bishop Drumm Retirement Center.

The 150 nursing home residents at the continuing care complex owned by Mercy Medical Center are getting flu shots this week after the Walgreens drug store chain diverted a batch of vaccine from its stores.

Walgreens decided to divert its supply in response to a request from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which asked healthy adults to forgo flu shots this year to ensure that those most at risk would get them.

"We've tried to follow the CDC guidelines and at the top of their

list is people over the age of 65," said Michael Polzon, spokesman for Walgreens. "These retirement homes were also a good match for the amount we had."

The elderly are among those most at risk, said Dr. Patricia Quinlisk, state epidemiologist. "As you get older, your immune system gets older, too, and you are not able to withstand any kind of disease as you are when you are younger," she said.

Over a five-year period ended in 2003, Iowa tallied 4,526 deaths from flu and pneumonia; of those, 4,235 were 65 and older.

It's a critical concern in a state that ranks fourth in the nation in the percentage of its population 65 and older. According to the 2000 Census, 14.9 percent of Iowans are in that age group.

Anne Langill, 88, a nursing home resident at Bishop Drumm, said she was never concerned she wouldn't get a flu shot.

"I thought that the people who really needed it would get it first," Langill said. "If anyone here got it, then there would have to be special efforts to get it (the vaccine) to us."



Anne Langill, 88, one of 150 residents in the Bishop Drumm Retirement Center in Johnston, Iowa, are getting flu shots this week after the Walgreens drug store chain diverted a batch of vaccine.

# Survey shows some try to profit from shortage

BY DANIEL YEE

The Associated Press

Caught off-guard by a last-minute flu vaccine shortage, hospitals and health officials are grappling with a side effect perhaps more virulent than the bug itself: price gouging.

Around the country, officials say some vaccine suppliers are trying to cash in on the flu shot shortage by hiking up prices for hospitals and pharmacies. A recent survey found that the vaccine is sometimes being offered for 10 times its original value.

"Shame on the people who are price-gouging," said Dr. Julie Gerberding, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "There's no room for this kind of behavior in an environment where we need to pull

together as a country to protect our vulnerable populations."

Federal prosecutors could use a variety of fraud, conspiracy and other charges to pursue individuals or companies thought to be engaging in price-gouging. Some states are taking their own action.

Attorneys general in Kansas and Florida are suing Fort Lauderdale, Fla.-based Meds-Stat for allegedly trying to seek "unconscionable profits" by offering pharmacies flu shots for prices way above normal.

The nationwide scramble for the vaccine was triggered when Chiron Corp. — one of two firms that make the vaccine — announced it would be unable to provide the estimated 48 million shots expected this year. That's nearly half the supply federal health officials had counted on.

The remaining firm, Aventis Pasteur, can't make more vaccine in time for the flu season and it has only 55.4 million doses available for this season, simply not enough to go around. The government is negotiating with other vaccine makers in hopes of shaking loose a bit more.

When a flu shot leaves the factory, Aventis charges \$8.50 for it, and the company says it has not raised the price since Chiron's announcement. A recent survey by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists indicated that the price of the vaccine went up more than four times the original market value. In some cases, the survey showed, the vaccine is being offered at \$800 or more per 10-dose vial, which is more than 10 times the original value.

# Scientists testing gel to protect against HIV

BY LAURAN NEERGAARD

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Scientists have long sought a vaginal gel that women could apply before sex to block the AIDS virus. Now they've found a new lead — a chemical specially designed to thwart the way HIV penetrates women's cells.

The experimental drug isn't ready for human testing yet, but it provided potent protection to female monkeys exposed to large amounts of an AIDS virus, researchers report Thursday in the journal Science.

The chemical prevented HIV from invading vaginal tissue by blocking its preferred cellular doorway, the first evidence that targeting that portal is sufficient to prevent infection.

"There's such a need for prevention right now," said lead researcher Dr. Michael Lederman of Case Western Reserve University.

"There's been a lot of difficulty in getting microbicides to be both effective and non-irritating," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. "This is a step forward."

HIV infection is increasing more rapidly among women than in many parts of the world. Half of all the adults living with HIV and AIDS worldwide are female, compared with 41 percent in 1997, according to the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS. In sub-Saharan Africa, for example, the figure is nearly 60 percent, the group says.

Now, two experimental microbicides are undergoing final-stage testing in thousands of women in Africa. While advocates hope they'll provide at least partial protection, they don't specifically target the way HIV invades during heterosexual intercourse.

The research was funded by the U.S. and Swiss governments.

# Web-based system could aid diabetics' care

BY DAVID TWIDDY

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Gabe Mathews felt funny at school last week, so the 9-year-old went to the nurse, who discovered the diabetic boy's blood sugar was very low. Later that night, his mother tested him again — only to find it was much too high.

Such swings are common for children with Type 1 diabetes, the rarer form of the disease, which affects 206,000 people under the age of 20.

Notifying a child's doctor of such rapid changes can help determine a cause and quickly change an insulin regimen. The problem: Doing so quickly, said Gabe's mother, Michele Kilo, a physician at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City.

Cerner Corp., one of the country's largest providers of electronic health care records, on Wednesday announced a \$25 million plan to provide a Web-based system connecting all children with Type 1 diabetes with their physicians for free.

The 10-year effort will establish personal health care records for each child, which can be accessed by the patient's family and health care provider

through a secure Web site. It will record glucose levels, carbohydrates and insulin injections, reducing clinical visits and possibly heading off medical problems.

"We're really trying to prove the value of connecting a person with a chronic medical condition with their physician," said Ned Patterson, chief executive of Kansas City-based Cerner. "We think that's one of the most valuable things information technology can do."

Besides helping diabetics, however, the campaign is also an early experiment in the burgeoning area of electronic health records.

The Bush administration has set a goal that most Americans will have computerized health records available within a decade.

Supporters contend electronic records avoid medical mistakes, improve care and are cheaper to store than paper records. Critics often cite privacy and costs as concerns.

Patterson said that by the time the diabetes program is over, he expects the market for such online, on-demand records to be in full swing — and for Cerner to have staked its place in that market.

## Man rescued

**VT** WOODFORD, Vt. — A Shaftsbury man who spent 24 hours lost in the woods was rescued safely.

Wolfgang Ludwig, 64, was the subject of a search by police, friends, relatives and game wardens.

His wife, Priscilla, said that he probably would have found his way out.

Ludwig went to the Aiken Wilderness in Woodford to scout moose for the upcoming hunting season, she said.

He realized that the sun was setting sooner than he expected, and knowing that he wouldn't make it to his car before dark, he settled down and started a fire with a lighter he had taken with him, she said.

Hours after he first entered the woods, the search party found Ludwig in perfect health and well rested from his night by a fire.

## Faucet a beacon of hope

**FL** MARIANNA — James Abney lost everything when a tornado spawned by Hurricane Ivan demolished everything he had — except remnants of the kitchen sink.

The only thing left where his trailer home had been standing was his kitchen faucet, supported by narrow water pipes. In fact, the faucet became a beacon of hope, towering at sink-level in a devastated trailer park.

After seeing an Associated Press photograph of the spigot sticking into the air, Delta Faucet workers recognized the fixture as one of theirs and tracked Abney down.

The Indianapolis-based company gave Abney \$10,000 toward a down payment on his new home in Abbeville, Ala.

## City wants parts back

**KS** WICHITA — A man who landed parts of a sculpture mistakenly put up for auction is still at odds with the city, which wants them back.

The base plate and a 17-inch section of the stainless steel sculpture by James Rosati were sold to Matthew Cuellar at the auction of surplus items.

Joe Lang, assistant city attorney, said officials were still considering what to do.

The sculpture, "Upright Form V," was donated to the city in the early 1990s. It formerly was located near the Willowbend Golf Club, but had been in storage. While it hasn't been appraised, estimates have placed the sculpture's value at between \$7,000 and \$30,000.

Cuellar, who paid \$45 for the two pieces, has said he will sell them back to the city for one-third of the sculpture's true value.

## Firefighter misconduct

**CA** SACRAMENTO — Nineteen city fire fighters were disciplined for misconduct that included using fire trucks to pick up women at bars and drinking on the job, the Sacramento fire chief said.

The department fired six firefighters, suspended seven without pay and reprimanded six others after a 3½-month investigation.



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

said Chief Julius "Joe" Cherry. One woman was among those disciplined.

Investigators found that several other firefighters took two trucks and an ambulance to a local event known as the "Porn Star Costume Ball" at a hotel where a woman claimed she was sexually assaulted. Prosecutors concluded the act on one of the fire rigs was consensual and declined to press charges, Cherry said.

## Riot report released

**CO** DENVER — Inmates were severely beaten, cells were ransacked and set on fire, and a female librarian was trapped with dozens of convicts during a riot last summer at a privately run prison, according to a recently released state report.

The report by the state Department of Corrections concludes that managers at the Crowley County Correctional Facility were slow to respond to the July 20 riot because of indecision and understaffing.

According to the report, inmates nearly overran the prison, which is owned and operated by the Corrections Corporation of America. They smashed sinks and toilets, set fires, destroyed appliances and rifled through files to find the names of suspected informants and sex offenders, the report said.



## Colorful foliage

Silos and a barn at Rider Farms on state Route 23 in Davenport Center, N.Y., are surrounded by fall colors.

The report says prison managers incorrectly told arriving law enforcement officials that all employees had been evacuated. The librarian was trapped in the library, and two prison officers had locked themselves in a cell, the report said.

All three were rescued safely, the report said. Their names were not released.

## Blues Brothers chase

**MN** CRYSTAL — Police responding to a call of a convulsing Elvis Presley impersonator soon found themselves in a high-speed chase of another faux celebrity — a man dressed as one of the Blues Brothers.

Crystal Police Capt. Dave Oyas said the bizarre string of events began when officers were called to a veterans hall to find a man dressed as Elvis Presley apparently in convulsions.

When the officers approached, Oyas said the man suddenly jumped up and yelled, "Viva Las Vegas!" before singing show tunes.

At about the same time, two women said another man at the veterans hall dressed as John Belushi's character in "The Blues Brothers" had stolen their car and driven to a nearby airport.

The man led police on a high-speed chase around the airport before officers forced him to stop and arrested him.

## Court: Tractor not a toy

**VT** RUTLAND — A John Deere lawn and garden tractor is made for work, not for fun.

At least that's how the Vermont Supreme Court sees it.

The court ruled in a dispute between an insurance company and the driver of a lawn tractor who injured his son while using his son's lawn tractor to plow snow at his son's home in Rutland Town.

The insurance company's policy covered injuries sustained in a recreational vehicle accident, not a work-related vehicle.

The state's highest court sided with the insurance company's decision, ruling that the lawn tractor was a work vehicle.

Norton ruled in favor of Concord General, concluding that the tractor was designed for work, not recreation. Delong appealed to Vermont Supreme Court.

## Abuse at camp alleged

**MD** SALISBURY — Law enforcement officials and the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services are investigating an allegation of child abuse at the Lower Shore DRILL Academy, a military-style boot camp.

Wicomico County Sheriff R. Hunter Nelms, whose office oversees the boot camp, said an officer is accused of physically assaulting a student. Nelms declined to provide details, saying they would be released when the investigation is completed.

The Discipline Respect Integrity Learning Leadership Academy opened in December. It is a rehabilitation center for youths who have had brushes with the law.



**Festival fun** Pushed by Candorelle Brown, 11, Northwood Elementary student Meredith Stabel, 11, reacts as the wheelbarrow she is riding in knocks over one ridden by fellow student Ali Elbasher, 11, during a race at the school's Fall Festival in Northwood, Iowa.



**Mixing it up** Dave Marten and his daughter, Julie, stir two of four large Burgoo cauldrons amidst the crafts and people swarming around Utica, Ill., for the annual Burgoo Festival. The Burgoo stew is a mixture of beef and vegetables that is cooked for 15 hours and symbolizes the heritage of the area when farmers, traders, hunters and others would gather at the end of the harvest season to sell and trade goods.



**Wiggling out** Marie Williams of Cleveland, Ala., reacts to her new hair extension at the Styles Extended booth at the Southern Women's Show at the Birmingham Jefferson Convention Complex.



**Curious creature** A calf moose kneels to browse dandelion leaves near an ornamental rack in a residential yard in Eagle River, Alaska.



**Cowboys on the job** The Cronin brothers move cattle from their summer range to fall pastures along the Missouri River near West Whitlock, S.D.



**Thinking of the next move** Cousins Makalah Roberts, left, and Victoria Smith play a game on a checker board using Coca-Cola bottle caps at the McDaniel Farm Park grand opening in Duluth, Ga.

## Shipping cows to Cuba

**VT** MONTPELIER — Vermont expects to send its first shipment of dairy cattle to Cuba early next year as part of a trade agreement.

Agriculture Secretary Steve Kerr traveled to the island nation for a week in early September to help fine-tune an estimated \$7 million deal for Vermont companies to sell dairy cattle, nonfat powdered milk and apples to Cuba.

Vermont's products are high quality, Kerr said recently. "If we can be competitive, there's no reason not to compete successfully and have a share of the sales."

The heifers are expected to head to Cuba in the first quarter of 2005. Details of the powdered milk and apple deals are still being worked out, Kerr said.

## Cold War tribute

**MO** WELDON SPRING — For more than a year, Denise Brock has been trying to win governmental compensation for workers who were exposed to high levels of radiation while helping to create the atom bomb and Cold War-era weapons.

Now Brock has her eye on another kind of recognition for their toil.

Brock is working with the Department of Energy to build an exhibit that will tell the story of more than 3,500 Missourians who worked on the U.S. atom bomb program and at Cold War-era nuclear sites in St. Louis, Weldon Spring and Hematite, Mo.

The tribute should be completed by year's end and will become a permanent display at the Weldon Spring Interpretive Center.

## Upholding morals

**ID** BOISE — During these tough budget times, schools don't often pass up a check for \$10,000. But that's just what one Idaho charter school has done — to set a moral example for students.

The North Star Public Charter School turned down the money because it came from the Idaho State Lottery and school officials decided that taking gambling money would conflict with the school's mission of developing virtuous citizens.

"We couldn't in good conscience take the money," said Gale Pooley, co-founder and chairman of the school board. "It's the less fortunate and the poor in the communities who are buying these tickets, and children are the ones who will pay for it."

## Ducky dispute

**TN** SPRING HILL — Katherine Williams says the yellow ducky sponge she put on sale at a flea market is merely a child's toy. City officials say the vibrator inside makes it a sex toy.

But officials in this Nashville suburb backed off from citing Williams for violating the city's sexually oriented business ordinance because she had already taken down her display by the time police responded to complaints. Nearby vendors also refused to be witnesses in the case.

Williams, whose Passions & Pleasures business sells lotions and adult novelties at in-home

parties, described her product line as "PG-13" and said she got only two negative comments at the flea market.

## Apple crop thin

**IL** GRAYSLAKE — A May frost followed by cool summer temperatures thinned this year's apple crop in the state's northern orchards. It's also cut short the self-picking season, which usually runs through the end of October. Measville, orchards in southern Illinois are reporting a bumper crop.

## Blind endeavors

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — Scott Duncan and Pamela Habek have embarked on an attempt to sail alone around the world, a journey made even more treacherous by the fact that both are legally blind.

Duncan, 38, and Habek, 42, set out in a 32-foot cutter for what they hope is a two-year voyage that takes them down the coast to Panama, across the Pacific and Indian oceans, around the tip of South Africa, through the Panama Canal and back home.

With the help of modern technology that includes a talking Global Positioning System and a 10-power video magnifier they can use for reading charts, the couple is confident they have what they need to avoid sailing into harm's way even without perfect vision.

## Snake on the tracks

**NY** YONKERS — Commuters traveling for a train to the northern suburbs of New York City were surprised to see a boa constrictor lying on the railroad tracks, but the snake didn't block the rails for long.

Passengers in Yonkers saw the 10-foot snake curled up on the tracks.

"We couldn't figure out if it was alive or not," passenger Edith Lynn Beer told The New York Times. "It was very thick. It had those rectangular markings."

A few minutes later, while a police debated what to do, a train rumbled into the station and bifurcated the reptilian trespasser," said Dan Brucker, a spokesman for the Metro-North rail line.

## Lawsuit over firings

**IN** LAKE STATION — Federal housing officials are suing the Lake County Board of Commissioners and other officials over the 2000 firings of two administrators. The two supported a mixed-income housing development opposed by Lake Station residents and officials. Commissioner Gerry Scheub said the firings were legal. A 2001 federal consent decree ordered Lake Station to build the development.

## Searching for clues

**WY** RAWLINS — Experts have reconstructed the face of a 100-year-old Carbon County murder victim in an attempt to identify him. The man was killed by a single gunshot to the head around 1900. The man's damaged skull and skeleton were found in 1996 in a dune west of Seminoe Reservoir.

Stories and photos from wire services.

# Is he for real?

## 'Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow' creator flies into the future of filmmaking

Stories and photos from The Associated Press





**KEY:** Sunny, Pt. cly. Mostly cly., Cloudy, Showers, Tstorms, Rain, Rain/snow, Snow, Cold frnt., Warm frnt., Trough, Occluded fr., Staty frnt., Low High

## AFRICA

Capa Town	79	55	Mogadishu	88	74
Dakar	79	55	Nairobi	88	74
Freeport	88	75	Rabat	72	54
Kinshasa	88	75	Tripoli	82	54

## THE WORLD

Amsterdam	55	42	Manila	80	73
Bahran	97	72	Mexico City	70	55
Beijing	72	48	Montreal	64	50
Bombay	70	47	Riyadh	88	68
Buenos Aires	82	74	Sao Paulo	72	58
Buenos Aires	82	74	Sao Paulo	72	58
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Buenos Aires	82	74	Sao Paulo	72	58
Buenos Aires	82	74	Sao Paulo	72	58

## TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

Alaska	51	33	Idaho	55	42
Alaska	51	33	Idaho	55	42
Alaska	51	33	Idaho	55	42
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Alaska	51	33	Idaho	55	42

## MIDEAST

Mazarr-e-Sharif	84/35	Kabul	76/46	Islamabad	80/58
Ashgabat	60/40	Kandahar	88/55	New Delhi	86/62
Tehran	73/55	Zahedan	83/47	Hyderabad	86/65
Baghdad	96/68	Dubai	101/77	Bombay	92/73
Tel Aviv	84/65	Kuwait City	101/69		
Cairo	87/68	Dhahran	103/76		

## MIDEAST

Mazarr-e-Sharif	84/35	Kabul	76/46	Islamabad	80/58
Ashgabat	60/40	Kandahar	88/55	New Delhi	86/62
Tehran	73/55	Zahedan	83/47	Hyderabad	86/65
Baghdad	96/68	Dubai	101/77	Bombay	92/73
Tel Aviv	84/65	Kuwait City	101/69		
Cairo	87/68	Dhahran	103/76		

## EUROPEAN FORECAST

**Benelux:** Cloudy with rain showers and gusty winds. Highs in the mid 50s, Saturday lows in the low 40s.

**Britain:** Mostly cloudy to cloudy with rain showers and gusty winds. Highs in the mid to upper 50s, Saturday lows in the low to mid 40s.

**Croatia and Bosnia:** Mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 50s, Saturday lows in the mid 40s.

**France:** Mostly cloudy with rain showers. Highs in the upper 50s to mid 60s, Saturday lows in the mid 40s to low 50s.

**Northern Germany:** Cloudy with rain showers. Highs in the low 50s to low 60s, Saturday lows in the mid to mid 50s.

**Southern Germany:** Mostly cloudy with rain showers. Highs in the low 50s to low 60s, Saturday lows in the mid 30s to mid 40s.

**Hungary:** Mostly cloudy with rain showers. Highs in the upper 50s, Saturday lows in the low 40s.

**Northern Italy:** Mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the low 60s, Saturday lows in the mid 40s to mid 50s.

**Southern Italy:** Mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms and gusty winds. Highs in the low 70s, Saturday lows in the mid to upper 50s.

**Kosovo:** Mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers. Highs in the low 50s, Saturday lows in the low to mid 40s.

**Norway:** Mostly cloudy with rain showers. Highs in the mid 40s to mid 50s, Saturday lows in the low 40s.

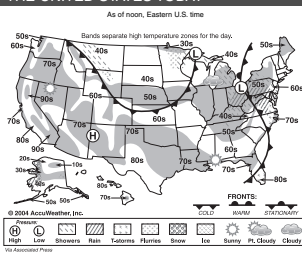
**Portugal, Spain:** Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s to mid 70s, Saturday lows in the upper 30s to mid 50s.

**Turkey:** Sunny to mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers. Highs in the low to upper 70s, Saturday lows in the upper 40s to upper 50s.

## SUN &amp; MOON

Sunrise (Baghdad)	7:09AM	Tomorrow
Sunrise (Baghdad)	7:09AM	Tomorrow
Sunrise (Baghdad)	7:09AM	Tomorrow
Sunrise (Baghdad)	7:09AM	Tomorrow
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Sunrise (Baghdad)	7:09AM	Tomorrow

## THE UNITED STATES TODAY



Scheduled to **ETS** or **PCS**

Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.

**STARS AND STRIPES**  
Your Hometown Newspaper

# Horoscope

The Scorpio moon adds a mysterious glow to the atmosphere. Mercury slips into Scorpio as well, where he'll be visiting until Nov. 4. You may have deeper questions about situations you once took for granted. Curiosity is peaked in regard to the inner workings of things. Knowing what's below the surface seems more important than before.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (October 15).** Your work may be thorough and pains-taking, but it pays off in a grand way this year! You'll be so proud of what you've accomplished! The next seven weeks teach you that you can depend on loved ones to generously help you as long as you spell out what you need. Some of you will move to a new house in February. Love signs are Aries and Leo.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Signs are posted to tell you which way to go. It's a matter of tuning your senses to what you are seeing, hearing and feeling. Discern the good opportunities from the ones that seem good but are really only of marginal benefit.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Make sure that you don't take your loved ones for granted. They are looking to you for support, and any misstep made now will count against you for weeks. You're not the only one who can hold a grudge, you know.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Your sign rules the butterfly, and you can be very much like this graceful insect, flitting from person to person, enjoying each but not staying long. Give a second look to relationships, keeping an open mind about commitment.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** You hardly the heady type, but you are prone to making last decisions now. You could spontaneously walk out the door in the middle of the workday in order to embark on the next adventure. Loved ones enjoy this new you.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** If every one thinks of himself or herself first, there's bound to be a fight. The

conflicts you witness may as well be between kindergartners in the sandbox. It takes someone mature to see a solution. Be that mature someone.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You'll be paid well for your skills, but don't assume that you already know all there is to know about your work. If you feel a sense of curiosity and discovery creep back into your process, you'll gain energy and exuberance.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Some people actually believe that it's dangerous to be happy! Luckily for those people, Libras exist in the world. A reminder that peace, harmony and, yes, happiness can exist under almost any circumstance.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You're unusually aggressive and will feel like driving fast and drinking big cups. Careful now! Socially, you're drawn to that good-looking acquaintance, so much so that you could say things you'll later regret.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Benjamin Franklin said it best, "He that is good for making excuses is seldom good for anything else." Keep your ears peeled for such defenses, and don't utter them yourself. There is nothing to justify.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** You've got a good grasp on the future — it's as if you're standing on top of a mountain on a perfectly clear day, able to see what lies ahead for miles and miles. Look for the long-term possibilities in every opportunity.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Loyalties are tested. Stand up for your loved ones. They'll model your behavior and learn how to stand up for themselves. Tonight, go where the interesting people are — it's probably not the most popular spot, but by the way.

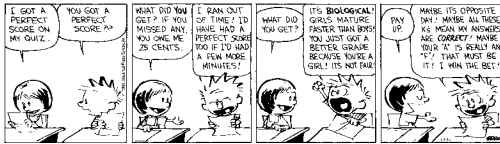
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Little details may get in the way if you allow them to. Avoid snags by maintaining what you've got. Let natural curiosity drive you toward people with potential. And trust that people who are worthwhile will see the potential in you.

Creators Syndicate

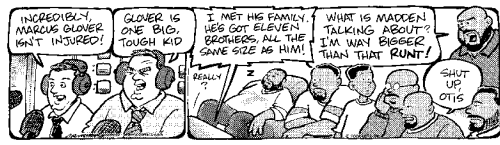
Joyce Jillson



Calvin and Hobbes



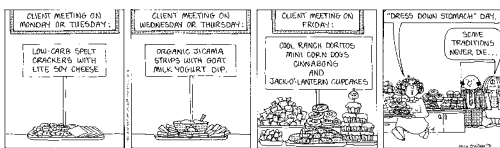
Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



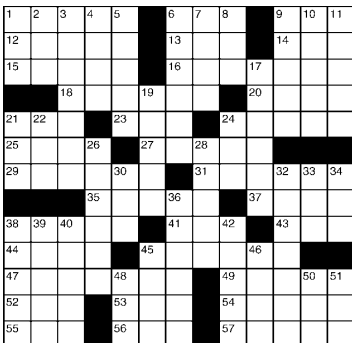
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## Across

- 1 Within the law
- 6 Prized possession
- 9 Ocean-going refuge
- 12 Sports venue
- 13 Mimic
- 14 Lair
- 15 "John Brown's Body" poet
- 16 Authentic
- 18 Pang
- 20 Ring out
- 21 Copper head?
- 23 Goose egg
- 24 Jolly Roger symbol
- 25 Gladly, old-style
- 27 Whoopi, in "The Color Purple"
- 29 Shine
- 31 Eugene's place
- 35 New
- 37 OAS member
- 38 FCC concern
- 41 Puts one over on
- 43 Bottom line
- 44 A Karamazov brother
- 45 Evolve bitterness
- 47 Khan man?
- 49 Supermarket section
- 52 Monster of myth
- 53 Suitable
- 54 Gave it a go
- 55 Reuben holder
- 56 "— for two"
- 57 Moves gently

## Down

- 1 Retriever type
- 2 Previous to
- 3 Elegant
- 4 From square one
- 5 Terence's tongue
- 6 Arsenine group
- 7 Thrusting weapon
- 8 Chaps
- 9 Farewell
- 10 Kidney-related
- 11 Ominous ring
- 12 Maintenance
- 13 Cubbyhole
- 21 Matterhorn, e.g.
- 22 Story of a lifetime
- 24 Baronet's address
- 26 Accompanying a drummer?
- 28 "Mean Girls" star
- 30 "No seats left"
- 32 The start of something big?
- 33 Tramcar contents
- 34 Eccentric
- 36 California mountain
- 38 Severity
- 39 Cartoonist Tex
- 40 Tpersichore's realm
- 42 Emulate Sarah Hughes
- 45 Not green
- 46 Stale Italian bread?
- 48 Chapeau
- 50 Apomattox VIP
- 51 Mag. staffers

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



## 10-15

## CRYPTOQUIP

LN U QDJPC JN CUDUWZDR  
RPWWZBK O RYUDYZW  
UMYLBQ LBRUBZKO, LR

Y GUY VUDMG VUWBZRR?  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A TORTOISE IS SLEEPING, WOULD YOU SAY THAT YOU WITNESSED A NAPPING TURTLE?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals A





# Fort Carson troops visited by Nuggets

By JOHN MARSHALL  
The Associated Press

FORT CARSON, Colo. — Sgt. 1st Class Terence Williams walked around the room with his red-white-and-blue basketball, chatting with players and asking for autographs.

It was a nice, although brief, diversion from the reality of military life.

The Denver Nuggets took a break from training camp Wednesday to visit Fort Carson, brightening spirits just 10 days after the latest round of deployments from the Army base.

"It catches everybody at a low this time of the year with everything that's going on, so to have these guys come around, you forget about all those things — at least for a little while," Williams said.

The Nuggets greeted about 1,000 servicemen and their families at Fort Carson's post exchange, signing autographs, posing for photos and handing out souvenirs for about two hours. The players stuck around long after the autograph session and a few slipped outside to shoot baskets with kids on a temporary hoop.

The Nuggets figured it was the least they could do with everything the soldiers have been through.

"It's important because I want these people on this base to know that we appreciate what they do," Nuggets General Manager Kiki Vandeweghe said. "We don't have our lifestyles without the sacrifices they make on a daily basis."

"I know that there are many people here who have lost family members defending our country, and I want to make sure they know that we don't forget."

The Nuggets' visit couldn't have come at a much better time. Fort Carson, just south of Colo-

rado Springs, sent 12,000 troops to Iraq last year, with 40 being killed and more than 500 wounded.

Another round of deployments started Oct. 5, when 250 soldiers were sent back into the war zone, part of about 7,000 expected to be deployed in the coming months.

"I guess it lets the soldiers know that we're not in it by ourselves," said Staff Sgt. Benjamin Gentle, who returned from Iraq last year. "A lot of times you see on the news, you don't see anything from our perspective. It's always the people in the country where we're going into. It's nice to feel appreciated."

The Nuggets made sure of that by smiling, patting backs and shaking hands with anyone who walked up. Star forward Carmelo Anthony had to take a break after being swarmed by fans for more than an hour, then went back out to make sure everyone left happy.

Forward Brian Russell and guard Voshon Lenard took special interest in a youngster outside the makeshift basket, repeatedly lifting him toward the rim so he could throw the ball in more easily.

"It's cool. It's great to do a good deed and support the people — some who have lost loved ones, some who may be going over to Iraq — and just come out and show that we're human," Nuggets forward Kenyon Martin said.

It was particularly enjoyable for Nuggets coach Jeff Bzdelik.

After spending six years in the Army National Guard, he has an understanding of what the soldiers and their families are going through.

"This has been a great experience, an experience we have been looking forward to so that we could show our appreciation to the servicemen and women — and families — that have sacrificed so much for our freedom," Bzdelik said.

# Americans take next step

## Rout puts U.S. in Cup qualifying finals

By BARRY WILNER  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The established world star was overshadowed by the kid.

Landon Donovan scored twice Wednesday night, then rising sensation Eddie Johnson connected three straight times, carrying the United States into the regional finals of World Cup qualifying with a 6-0 rout of Panama. In a game dominated from start to finish by the streaking Americans, it was Donovan and Johnson who left the lasting marks.

"I just want to see if I can play at this level," the 20-year-old Johnson said after scoring the first U.S. hat trick in World Cup qualifying since 1968 and only the third ever. And he did it in his second game with the national team — after scoring last Saturday night in his debut at El Salvador.

"This is awesome. It's what you dream of — maybe dream of just getting on the field for a few minutes or maybe scoring a goal. But three..."

Johnson shook his head at the thought. "I don't dream of that," he added with a big smile.

The Americans' biggest victory since beating Barbados 7-0 in 2000 moved them one huge step closer to Germany '06. They got a spot in the CONCACAF regional finals, in which the top three of six teams automatically make the World Cup field.

And they did it with an unrelenting attack that extended their longest unbeaten string to 12 games. Only a 1-0 loss to the Netherlands in February blemishes the record. They are 3-0-2 in qualifying this year.

"Qualifying is all about results," coach Bruce Arena said.



Eddie Johnson moves in on the ball during the U.S. World Cup qualifying game against Panama. Johnson scored three goals in the 6-0 win.

"You don't get them and you don't go to the World Cup."

"The players have had a great year to date."

They were as sharp as ever against Panama, starting with Donovan, who wore the captain's armband for just the second time.

Donovan established U.S. superiority with plenty of help from his teammates, whose creative passing and speed dominated play. He received pinpoint passes on both of his goals.

Donovan's 18th goal for the national team and first as captain was a precision combination play with Josh Wolff. With Wolff charging into the penalty area from the

left wing, Donovan headed for the goal and perfectly timed his right-footed deflection of Wolff's pass. The ball sailed beyond diving goalkeeper Donald Gonzalez in the 21st minute.

Donovan made it 2-0 by breaking free behind the defense off a pass from Kerry Zavagnin. Donovan cut across the penalty area and, just before being sandwiched by two defenders, placed a shot into the top of the net.

"Crucial," Donovan said of advancing with one game to spare. "You don't want to worry about other results, you don't want to worry about getting a result in the sixth game. If you can finish it... you finish it."

# Bryant downplays former coach Jackson's criticism

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Kobe Bryant is shrugging off criticism of him by former Los Angeles Lakers coach Phil Jackson.

"He's just trying to sell books. I'll just leave it at that," Bryant said Wednesday at the Lakers' training camp at the University of San Diego. "I wish him the best at whatever he's doing now. I have responsibilities here, and that's what I have to take care of. That's it."

The diary of the 2003-04 season, titled "The Last Season: A Team in Search of Its Soul," Jackson said he no longer wanted to coach Bryant.

The book will be released this month, but an excerpt will be published in next week's issue of Los Angeles magazine. The Los Angeles Times first excerpts from the magazine article on Tuesday.

Jackson wrote that he became so frustrated with Bryant that he told General Manager Mitch Kupchak in January: "I won't coach this team next year if he's still here. He won't listen to anyone. I've had it with this kid."

## Furcal gets concurrent sentence for second DUI

ATLANTA — Atlanta Braves shortstop Rafael Furcal, who is serving a 21-day jail sentence for being arrested while on probation, pleaded guilty Thursday to his second drunken driving charge.

Furcal's latest sentence will run concurrently with the remaining 19 days of his current jail term in Cobb County. He entered jail Tuesday, the day after the Braves were eliminated from the playoffs.

After his release from jail Nov. 1, Furcal also must enter in-house alcohol treatment, serve about 10 months of probation, complete 240 hours of community service and attend a 20-hour course about drunken driving.

The judge ruled that Furcal can return home to the Dominican Republic from Dec. 24-Jan. 2 to renew his passport.

Furcal was arrested Sept. 10 in Atlanta and charged with driving under the influence, his second such offense in four years. He had faced three days to a year in jail. "Everything went about as well as we could expect," Furcal's lawyer, William Head, said. "From the start, we were trying to get him a package deal."

## Kennedy will have surgery Friday

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Anaheim Angels second baseman Adam Kennedy will undergo surgery Friday to repair torn ligaments in his right knee, leaving his status for spring training in question.

Kennedy has a complete tear of the anterior cruciate ligament and a partial tear of the medial collateral ligament. He was injured during a grounder against Seattle on Sept. 20.

The Angels said after Kennedy was injured that if he needed surgery, his rehabilitation could extend into spring training.

Kennedy, 28, was the MVP of the 2002 ALCS with three home runs in the clinching game against the Minnesota Twins. He batted .728 in 144 games this season with 10 homers and 48 RBIs. He also had a 54-game errorless streak.

## Tickets for high school game fetching top prices

SOUTHLAKE, Texas — Tickets are moving fast — but not cheap — for Thursday's nationally televised high school football game between Southlake Carroll and Denton Ryan.

Face value on the tickets is \$6, but fans have paid more than eight times that price for the sold-out game at Dragon Stadium in the Fort Worth suburb of Southlake.

Mike Walloch, a Southlake real estate investor who has sold houses on eBay, put some extra tickets on the popular Web site to stumping response.

"I'm really surprised people are going on eBay looking for high school tickets," Walloch said. "It's really been amazing. The people are just happy to have them."

Walloch sold a pair of his \$6 tickets for \$80 and sold a single ticket for \$49.99. Tickets are sold at \$44.71 for one, \$76 for two and \$90 for three according to the eBay listings. Dallas Cowboys tickets sell for as low as \$36.

## Williams gets title shot against Klinkshock

LONDON — Danny Williams has earned a heavyweight title shot nearly three months after derailed Mike Tyson's career.

Williams will fight World Boxing Council champion Vitali Klitschko in New York on Dec. 11. Williams stopped Tyson in the fourth round of their fight in Louisville on July 30.

# Peed Rice takes trade request to NFL

From wire reports

ALAMEDA, Calif. — Wide receiver Jerry Rice met with Oakland Raiders managing general partner Al Davis on Wednesday to discuss a situation that Rice deems beyond repair.

## NFL briefs

"I told him that it doesn't look like this is going to work out," Rice said as he exited his late afternoon meeting with Davis. "And then we talked football."

This came well after Rice drew a crowd of media around his locker, there a day more than wish him a happy 42nd birthday.

Rice said he is prepared to move on with his career, though he admits a trade before Tuesday's league deadline is not imminent. He said that he did not ask to be traded during his meeting with Davis and is unsure how the situation is going to play out.

Raiders coach Norv Turner said: "He's expressed to us his wishes, and we'll see what happens."

Rice made it clear that he likes being a Raider but that being a bigger part of the offense means more to him.

"I'm not trying to force anything," Rice said. "But it doesn't make any sense for me to stay here if things keep going the way they've been. It's not up to me. If I did that, I'd be running the team."

Rice has averaged one catch per game this season. In two of the Raiders' five games, he hasn't caught a pass. The first time ended his 274-game streak of catching at least one pass.

Rice said on a Sacramento radio station Tuesday that Turner and then-quarterback Rich Gannon disrespected him by saying they were unaware of his streak being in jeopardy.

Rice also said that he was misled into thinking he would be a bigger part of Oakland's offense this season.

## Brown's war of words: Garcia and Davis debate

BEREA, Ohio — Cleveland Browns quarterback Jeff Garcia took exception on Wednesday to a

comment coach Butch Davis made two days earlier when he described Garcia as being "skittish" during a 34-23 loss at Pittsburgh last weekend.

"I don't have a reaction to that," Garcia said when asked how he felt about Davis' characterization. "Until he plays the quarterback position, then he can understand where I am coming from."

Based on his salty delivery, Garcia meant to say "can't understand." But it's not the first mixed message coming out of team headquarters as the Browns (2-3) try to salvage a season that's showing signs of slipping away.

Cleveland's offense enters this week's game against Cincinnati ranked 30th in the NFL.

On Monday, Davis said Garcia, who has been sacked 13 times this season and was running from Pittsburgh's blitz on just about every snap, needed to trust his protection.

"The quarterback has to have confidence that the last time he got hit was an aberration," Davis said. "He can't be skittish. He has to sit in the pocket and make throws."

Following Wednesday's practice, Davis was told that Garcia didn't seem happy about the "skittish" comment.

"He probably shouldn't have been," Davis said. "That's one of those things where the media takes one word out of 12 paragraphs and paraphrases it when it is taken out of context. Jeff and I talked about it and laughed about it."

## Miami QB Fiedler uncertain

DAVIE, Fla. — Miami Dolphins quarterback Jay Fiedler said Wednesday he's uncertain whether a cracked rib will prevent him from playing Sunday at Buffalo.

If Fiedler doesn't start, A.J. Feeley said he'll be ready to step in. Both were listed as questionable, but Feeley was more optimistic about his availability after recovering from a concussion.

## Panthers All-Pro DT Jenkins out for season

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — All-Pro defensive tackle Kris Jenkins was lost for the season Wednesday to

## NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, followed by team's progress in upcoming game. (See Page 24 for complete injury report.)

**Ills:** RB Travis Henry (foot) questionable.

**Recovers:** QB Chris Simms (shoulder).

**Reinjury:** QB Jay Fiedler (cracked rib).

**Reinjury:** QB Drew Brees (ankle) probable.

**Reinjury:** QB Clint Stenhouse (ankle) questionable.

**Reinjury:** QB Pete Kendall (nose) out.

**Reinjury:** QB Matt Ryan (ankle) out for season.

**Reinjury:** QB Trenton Burkholder (knee) questionable.

**Reinjury:** LB LaVar Arrington (knee) questionable.

**Reinjury:** TE Tom Rouen (strained hamstring) questionable.

**Reinjury:** QB David Carr (ankle) probable.

**Reinjury:** WR Andre Johnson (ankle) probable.

**Reinjury:** OT Todd Wade (ankle) doubtful.

**Reinjury:** WR Mike Johnson (ankle) probable.

**Reinjury:** LB Kris Claiborne (ankle) probable.

**Reinjury:** LB E.J. Henderson (neck) doubtful.

a shoulder injury, the fourth important member of the Carolina Panthers out for the year.

The defending NFC champion is already without top receiver Steve Smith (broken leg) and No. 2 running back DeShaun Foster (broken collarbone). Star running back Stephen Davis has also missed three games with a knee injury, leaving Carolina (1-3) thin on talent all over the field.

# Let this Railer catch on with someone else

BY MARK PURDY

San Jose Mercury News

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Jerry Rice has his shorts in a knot. Rich Gannon has his neck in a brace.

And even a blind zebra can see where this is heading: a trade for the Raiders: A farewell party. For both men.

In fact, Rice was scheduled to celebrate his 42nd birthday Wednesday with a secluded evening rendezvous. His companion was not his wife. It was Al Davis.

The two men were supposed to discuss Rice's future. It's unclear which man called the meeting. Keeping things murky is the Raiders' way. But the best guess is that Davis made the move, after watching and listening as Rice aired an informal informal through the media during the past two days.

What was the informal product? Jerry Rice's services.

"I'm not trying to force anything," Rice said Wednesday, one day after he spoke of a trade as a possibility on a Sacramento radio show.

"You know, it doesn't make any sense for me to stay here if things continue going this way. ... It comes down to two things — if the team is going to let you go, or if you're just going to have to go somewhere else and play. ... I just want to get the opportunity again. ... I'm not unhappy."

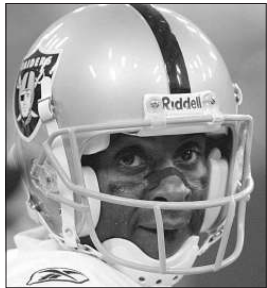
Oh, yes, he is. Rice has been unhappy since Week 1, when he wasn't on the field during most of the fourth quarter in Pittsburgh.

The following Sunday, he threw a small sideline hissy fit after his record streak of games with receptions ended at 274.

Since then, Rice has held his emotions closer to his chest. But he kept up a calm and steady verbal drumbeat about his belief that the Raiders aren't using him the way they should. If Davis follows his historical pattern, he will respectfully ask Rice if he would prefer to be released or dealt. And by week's end, he'll be gone.

The move is long overdue.

Three weeks ago, after Rice's tantrum, I suggested that Rice should cut out the drama and seriously think about moving on to another NFL team. He did,



Jerry Rice has five receptions for 67 yards this year.

and he is. Wish it were that easy to predict the Sunday scores.

There are only three ways to end a NFL career — your choice, your boss' choice, or your doctor's choice. Rice is headed for the second option. Gannon will probably have the bad luck of the third option.

When the Raiders' quarterback cracked a vertebrae against Tampa Bay on Sept. 26, the injury sounded clinically bad. But only when Gannon showed up in the press box last Sunday in Indianapolis did anyone outside his family get a real sense of how severe the injury must be.

Gannon was wearing a large brace from shoulders to below his ears.

Retiring is the right choice for Gannon, with all the proper accolades. He's the only Raiders quarterback of the past 20 years to lead the team into a Super Bowl. That's worth more than a little.

Likewise, Rice should be permitted to go with some dignity. He ought to ponder retirement, too, but he never will. He may learn a tough lesson, though. If the Raiders do try to trade Rice — or even release him — it's not clear what the market would be for his once-unusable feet and hands. One scout recently described him as "just another receiver at this stage."

Oh, another team might take a stab at Rice, based on his place in the game. But he may eventually find himself playing the same role he does now with the Raiders. The game of football is cruel. When the skills slide, they slide fast.

# Parcells impressed with Roethlisberger

By ALAN ROBINSON

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Asked to name the last rookie quarterback who impressed him as much as the Steelers' Ben Roethlisberger, Dallas Cowboys coach Bill Parcells immediately dropped a familiar name.

Dan Marino.

"He is the best (quarterback) prospect I have seen in 10 or 15 years," Parcells said Wednesday. "I have not seen anybody come in the league like that. The only guy that I can say came in, and the first year started playing like he is playing, is Dan Marino."

The Steelers, then on the downside following their Super Bowl successes of the 1970s, regretted for years not drafting Marino, a local college star, in 1983. Partly because of that decision, they never did find a comparable replacement for Hall of Fame quarterback Terry Bradshaw, winning only two playoff games from 1980 through 1993.

Parcells doesn't regret the Steelers' they ever rethink taking Roethlisberger, who is 3-0 as a starter since replacing the injured Tommy Maddox. The Steelers (4-1) play at Dallas (2-2) Sunday.

Roethlisberger enjoyed one of the best all-around games in years by a Steelers rookie last Sunday, throwing for a touchdown, running for another while constantly keeping Cleveland's defense off-balance with his scrambling in a 34-23 victory.

"He is out of the pocket throwing 50-yard passes right on the money," Parcells said. "It is not going to be without growing

pains, but I think he is in an ideal situation. They have good balance on offense. They are running the ball well. They have a good receiving corps. ... I am telling you, I am very, very impressed, and it is not just because he is an opponent."

Roethlisberger respectfully accepted the praise but detected a veteran coach employing some pregame psychological trickery.

"He's been around for a long time. He knows what he's doing. He has no problem putting those [comments] out there and trying to get inside someone's head," Roethlisberger said. "So I've just got to go and play my game and, hopefully, win the football game."

As for any comparison to Marino, Roethlisberger said that should wait for, oh, another 15 years or so. Marino threw for 11,340 yards and 107 touchdowns in 17 seasons, NFL career, or nearly 10,000 yards more than any other quarterback in league history.

"Obviously, it's quite a compliment coming from Coach Parcells," Roethlisberger said. "Being a guy who's been around a long time, he knows talent. But if I've said it once I've said it a million times, it's only been three games. It's a little too early to be putting those statements on it."

"I can be half as good as Marino. I'll be incredibly happy."

Roethlisberger is only the fourth non-replacement 17-season quarterback since the NFL merger in 1970 to win his first three NFL starts. He has enjoyed a far better debut than the last Steelers first-round pick, rookie quarterback Bradshaw, who had only six touchdowns passes and 24 interceptions in 1970.

# Owens to Panthers: Don't expect a repeat

## Philly's stronger receiving corps confronts injury-plagued Carolina in rematch of 2003 NFC title game

BY BOB BROOKOVER

The Philadelphia Inquirer

PHILADELPHIA — Like most messages from Terrell Owens, this one was direct.

The intended receiver was Ricky Manning Jr., the Carolina Panthers' cornerback who destroyed the Eagles' Super Bowl dreams back in January with three interceptions and intimidating coverage on Todd Pinkston and James Thrash.

"I hope Ricky Manning doesn't come here thinking he's going to push us around this year, because it's not going to happen," Owens said.

Manning, of course, talked a lot before, during and after the Panthers' 14-3 victory over the Eagles in last season's NFC championship game. He backed it up, too.

Before last year's NFC title game, Manning said, "I'm definitely not impressed with their receivers."

Pinkston had an interesting reply at the time. "Just because we don't have the big-name guys like Terrell Owens or Randy Moss doesn't mean we can't play," he said.

This week, Pinkston has remained silent and out of sight in the Eagles' locker room. Owens, on the other hand, arrived for

work Wednesday with a "bring it on" message for Manning.

"This ain't what he wants right here," the star receiver said. "This ain't what he wants. If he wants to bring it, then bring it. I don't have to say a whole lot. I don't have to talk a whole lot to pump my game up."

Manning chose his words carefully Wednesday. The Panthers are 1-3 and ravaged by injuries. Manning, meanwhile, was burned Sunday for the game-deciding touchdown in the Panthers' loss at Denver.

"They've got a good group of receivers," Manning said of the Eagles. "They've got one of the best in the game. It's going to be a great challenge. I'm looking forward to it."

Even when told of Owens' comments by a reporter from the Charlotte Observer, Manning remained diplomatic.

"I've got to figure out how I'm going to stop T.O.," he said. "What's going to be my technique against him, whether I play soft or whether I play hard or whether I play deep or whether I play short? I've got to come up with a game plan, and I'm pretty sure I'll mix it up pretty well and just try to keep him from knowing what we're doing."

Whatever Manning does, it's unlikely to rattle Owens the way it affected Pinkston. Owens, at 6 feet 3 and 226 pounds, has a tremendous size and weight advantage over the 5-8, 185-pound Manning.



Philadelphia's Terrell Owens, right, ranks fifth in the NFC in yards receiving (364), eight in receptions (26), second in touchdown catches (six) and fourth in receiving yards per game (91.0).

likely to rattle Owens the way it affected Pinkston. Owens, at 6 feet 3 and 226 pounds, has a tremendous size and weight advantage over the 5-8, 185-pound Manning.

"This isn't to get anything started, but I obviously heard they were a little bit physical with some of the receivers last year," Owens said. "It's a different year, a different mind-set, and a different team."

"I feel like we have a great group of guys in the receiving

corps. I'm the big brother of that group. If it's going to be a physical game on Sunday, I welcome that and we welcome that."

Owens, in his ninth NFL season, has had tremendous success against the Panthers. His first career catch came against them as a rookie in 1996 with San Francisco, and his first 100-yard game came later that same season. He has 54 catches for 805 yards and nine touchdowns in his career against the Panthers.



Game time is Central European.

This will be the first time, however, he has gone against Manning, who is arguably the primary reason the Eagles decided to upgrade the receiving corps and bring in Owens.

"To be honest, I really haven't watched much of the guy," Owens said. "That's just being brutally honest. Even when I do play against guys, I don't really care about their names or any of that. I just go out and play, and he's the guy in front of me that I need to beat."

Manning said he was being honest last year when he questioned the ability of the Eagles' receivers and he does not regret it.

At first I did it, he said. "But I didn't regret it when my team responded well. My team was like, 'You said it, let's just go out there and prove it. What's said is said. Let's just go beyond it and try not to say any more stuff.'"

"I just felt I saw some weaknesses in their ... receivers last year. I felt like if I attacked them a certain way that we would succeed in doing it. That's what we did. We went out there and attacked them in a certain way and it worked to perfection."

## Brown gives Titans a different dynamic

BY TERESA M. WALKER

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Tennessee Titans used to be

happy grinding their way down the field 3 or 4 yards at a time.

Chris Brown has changed that. Brown is gaining ground at a rate not even achieved by Eddie George as he was becoming the franchise's leader in career rushing yards, and it's not a surprise. Coach Jeff Fisher said Wednesday the Titans knew Brown had the potential to be special. "We knew he had skills, and he flashed them last year," Fisher said. "We were hoping that his play last year, what we saw, would turn into this type of production."

"He's gotten help, but four touchdowns runs all over 20 yards in the first five games of the season are pretty impressive."

The second-year back leads the AFC with 556 rushing yards. Brown is one of only three backs in NFL history to record four 100-yard games in his first five starts, joining Stump Mitchell and Don Calhoun.

Brown also has the second-most yards by an Oilers/Titans running back in the first five games since the advent of the 16-game schedule, putting him behind Hall of Famer Eric Campbell's 569 in 1979 — the season Campbell was the NFL's MVP. Houston defensive end Robert



AFC rushing leader Chris Brown is one of only three NFL running backs with four 100-yard games in his first five starts.

Smith, who played with the Titans in 2003, will try to tackle Brown on Sunday when the Texans visit Nashville. Smith said he thought Brown would be good but didn't expect this.

"He has surprised me this year as far as the big, big numbers he has gotten," Smith said. "You can tell he is that type of player. He has that explosiveness."

Brown was chosen AFC offensive player of the week after rushing for 148 yards and two touchdowns in Monday night's 48-27 victory over Green Bay. His TD runs 37 yards and 29 yards in the first quarter gave the Titans a cushion they never gave up.

He's averaging 5.2 yards a carry and has reached 100 yards in the first half of three games. He is why the Titans rank third in the NFL in rushing average (150).

## Martin's workload keeps Jets on the run

BY ANDREA ADELSON

The Associated Press

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Curtis Martin keeps running and shoudering the load of the ground game for the New York Jets.

Martin has 107 carries through four games, and is on pace to finish with 428 carries, which would break the NFL record of 410 set by Jamal Anderson with Atlanta in 1998. Martin has had the most productive opening five games of his 10-year NFL career, but the Jets hope the 31-year-old back doesn't run out of gas.

While rushing for 77 yards on 22 carries against Buffalo last Sunday, Martin took a pounding and acknowledged afterward that he was sore. But Wednesday, Martin said he felt fine and welcomes all his touches.

"I'm feeling better and better," Martin said. "I feel like my body's getting acclimated to the season more and more. I feel good. I feel just as good as when I started. I like to think I get stronger the more touches I get and I feel as though I get better."

In addition to gaining 502 yards on the ground, Martin also has a team-leading 19 receptions. Meanwhile, backup LaMont Jordan has one carry this season for

2 yards. Only one other back has a carry this year, fullback Jerald Sowell with one for 19 yards.

Coach Herman Edwards doesn't seem concerned about Martin's durability.

"Curtis is having a heck of a year," Edwards said. "He's going to run the ball. Really, he hasn't had more runs at this point than he had previously. In the last three or four years. It's not like we have overworked him or anything like that, because we haven't."

But Edwards is mistaken. Martin's carries are up. By a lot. Last year, he had 61 through the first four games. In 2002 he had 32 while struggling with injuries. In 2001, he had 40 and in 2000 he had 80. Martin usually starts slowly and ends the season fast, so it remains to be seen whether he can keep up the pace.

Jordan said the most upsetting part about sitting on the bench is watching Martin take hit after hit each week.

"It is frustrating watching him take a pounding the way he took against Buffalo," he said. "When Curtis is doing well, I'm the happiest person. When I see him taking a beating the way he was taking this weekend, that's when I get frustrated and I want to get in there and give him a break."

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# RACING STRIPES

A WEEKLY LOOK AT MOTORSPORTS

## Why the good drive young

### Car owner's signing of high school freshman raises questions within stock-car community

BY STEVE BREINDINE

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — Next October, Chase Austin will finally be old enough to drive to the grocery store by himself.

By then, though, he'll also have a full season of stock-car racing under his belt.

When Hendrick Motorsports signed the 15-year-old high school freshman from Eudora, Kan., to a developmental contract last week, it raised the question: How young is too young?

"All I know, when I think back, is that I wasn't ready to be signed even at 18," said 22-year-old Blake Feese, another of Hendrick's developmental drivers. "So much has changed over the years in terms of how I've progressed."

Austin doesn't seem intimidated, although he acknowledges it is an unusual situation.

"I can see where people are coming from," he said. "Sometimes I've thought I'm too young, because there's so much involved with this. But if I saw some of 15-year-old who has this chance, I'd want it, too."

J.D. Gibbs, president of Joe Gibbs Racing, also doesn't have a problem with Austin's age.

"I don't think it's a big deal," said Gibbs, whose team's developmental drivers are both in their early 20s. "I don't think everyone's going to rush out and sign a

**“Pretty soon, we’ll see kids in diapers and it’ll be, ‘He waddles well. Let’s get him.’”**

Marianne Austin

Mother of 15-year-old stock-car racer Chase Austin

### How young is too young?

**Who is Chase Austin?** A 15-year-old race driver signed by Hendrick Motorsports. His career is already drawing comparisons to that of the young Jeff Gordon.

**What's next for him?** A full season of racing in the American Speed Association's Late Model Series, where qualifying speeds are close to 100 mph.

**Is he too young?** Austin acknowledges it might seem that way, but says he wants the chance. Motorsports insiders say he has the talent.

**Big picture:** Austin is young, and a minority. That has helped golf and tennis pull in more fans, too. (Think Tiger Woods and the Williams sisters).

—The Associated Press

15-year-old unless he's pretty damn good."

And if Austin proves himself on the track, Gibbs said, his age won't matter to anyone. The exception would be NASCAR, which won't let a driver race on its top three circuits — Nextel Cup, the Busch Series and the Craftsman Truck — until age 18.

"If you go out there and show you're competent, there shouldn't be a problem," Gibbs said. "If you go out there and cause a bunch of issues, that's one thing. But that has nothing to do with age. There's 40-year-olds guys who cause issues."

Austin does have an impressive racing résumé that invites comparisons to the early years of Jeff Gordon's career.

Austin started racing go-karts when he was 8 — and by 13, just like Gordon, was competing in full-size sprint cars. He has run

modifieds and late models on dirt tracks, has experience on paved tracks in the late model division — and in his first year of Topless Outlaw Racing Association competition finished 11th in points and was the top rookie.

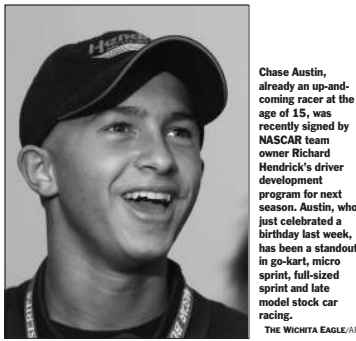
And he's a sports marketer's dream. He's good-looking, personable, talented — and biracial, the son of a black father and a white mother.

For auto racing, still searching for a way to bring more minorities into its fan base, that makes Austin an appealing combination of Gordon and Tiger Woods.

"I do think he's got a lot of natural outstanding talent," said H.A. "Humpy" Wheeler, president of Lowe's Motor Speedway.

"He's the best black American I've seen in a race car. I'm glad Rick [Hendrick] has done this, because Rick will be able to put the kind of equipment under him that he needs to reach his potential."

"We can do all advertising we can reach out to African American fans," Wheeler said. "But when we have one that starts winning, that's what's going to break it wide open."



Chase Austin, already an up-and-coming racer at the age of 15, was recently signed by NASCAR team owner Richard Hendrick's driver development program for next season. Austin, who just celebrated a birthday last week, has been a standout in go-kart, micro sprint, full-sized sprint and late model stock car racing.

THE WICHITA EAGLE/AP

Players have been going straight from high school to the NBA for years. The courts, not a lack of talent, kept Maurice Clarett from jumping to the NFL after his freshman year at Ohio State. And earlier this year, Freddy Adu made his highly anticipated Major League Soccer debut — at 14.

Then again, they don't climb into high-horsepower machines and tear around tracks at almost 100 mph. That's how high qualifying speeds can run in the American Speed Association's Late Model Series, where Austin will compete next year for SS Racing.

But there's precedent for other young drivers doing well not only on short tracks, but on super-speedways.

There's Gordon, of course, who broke into Cup competition at 21 and won his first championship at 24.

"The theory prior to Jeff Gor-

don is that nobody started winning major long-distance races in the U.S., whether that was in Winston Cup or the IRL, until they were about 28," Wheeler said. "Jeff Gordon came along and shot that theory down."

"That perpetuates what I call Pop Warner Racing. Now a few years after him, you've got all these kids racing."

Shelby Howard became ARCA's youngest race winner at age 16 in 2002. Last year, at 17, he became the youngest driver to win on a big track in any circuit.

"Ultimately, the great thing about sports racing is that either you're good or you're not," Gibbs said. "I think Rick saw a good opportunity to partner up with a good talent for the future."

Austin's mother, Marianne, made light of the debate over her son's age.

"Pretty soon, we'll see kids in diapers and it'll be, 'He waddles well. Let's get him,'" she said.

### NASCAR NEXTEL CUP

**Race 31: UAW/GM Quality 500, 1 a.m. Sunday CET, AFN-Pacific.**

**Last race:** Pole-sitter Joe Nemechek completed the sweep at Kansas Speedway with his win in the Banquet 400.

#### DRIVERS TO WATCH

**Jimmie Johnson**, the leader who's dropping out of the 10-race playoff, will have to add to his six races to go. He won't win the title, but another He's been fast at Lowe's the last two times he's won (twice) would stop the bleeding.

**Terry Labonte** is scaling back next season, but for now he's trying to win at Charlotte since he's been fast at Lowe's the last two times he's won (twice) would stop the bleeding.

**Kurt Busch**, who gained the series lead when Dale Earnhardt Jr. was docked 25 points last week for curbing during at Talladega, is looking to add to his 16th-place finish at the 10-race playoff. He's been fast at Lowe's the last two times he's won (twice) would stop the bleeding.

**Nextel Cup qualifying record** Jimmie Johnson 187.052 mph, 2004

**Nextel Cup race record** Jeff Gordon, 160.396 mph, Oct. 10, 1999.

### BUSCH SERIES

#### POINTS RACE

**After 30 of 36 races**

1. Kurt Busch 5,685
2. Dale Earnhardt Jr. 5,656
3. Jeff Gordon 5,506
4. Elliott Sader 5,462
5. Mark Martin 5,535
6. Tony Stewart 5,512
7. Matt Kenseth 5,279
8. Ryan Newman 5,453
9. Jimmie Johnson 5,438
10. Jeremy Mayfield 5,428
11. Jamie McWhorter 5,736
12. Dale Jarrett 5,654
13. Kevin Harvick 3,607
14. Casey Mears 3,549
15. Bobby Labonte 3,540
16. Michael Waltrip 3,279
17. Rusty Wallace 3,249
18. Greg Biffle 3,182
19. Jeff Burton 3,175
20. Casey Mears 3,156

**This week:** The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie 300 at Concord, N.C. (Live, 3 a.m. Saturday, AFN-Atlantic).

**Last race:** Joe Nemechek held off Greg Biffle by a hair of a second to win the 400-mile race at Kansas Speedway.

**Next race:** The SpongeBob Movie 300 at Concord, N.C. (Live, 3 a.m. Saturday, AFN-Atlantic).

**Next race:** Sam's Town 250, Oct. 22, Memphis, Tenn.

#### FORMULA ONE

**Last race:** Michael Schumacher won his 13th race of the season and first since August by capturing the Japanese Grand Prix.

**Next race:** Brazilian Grand Prix, Oct. 24, Sao Paulo.

#### INDY RACING

**This week:** Chevy 500 at Fort Worth, Texas (Tape-delayed, 9:30 a.m. Monday, AFN-5).

**Last race:** Tony Kanaan clinched his first IndyCar title by winning the final race second at the Toyota 600 in Fontana, Calif. on Oct. 3. Kanaan was .0183 sec-

onds behind Adrian Fernandez, who claimed his second straight victory and third in five races.

**Last year:** A terrifying crash that left Tony Kanaan's Chevy 500 five laps early, sending off the race. Kanaan finished in his last career start and giving runner-up Scott Dixon the series championship.

#### CRAFTSMAN TRUCK

**Last race:** Silverado 350K at Fort Worth, Texas (Tape-delayed, 5 a.m. Tuesday, AFN-5).

**Last race:** Good headline ended Tuesday's three-race mini-series in California Speedway with his victory over the American Rocker Wheels 200 at the track.

**Last year:** Brendan Gaughan came down in a side-by-side battle to win the Las Vegas 400 for his sixth victory of 2004. Gaughan won by .006 seconds.

**Next race:** Oct. 24, Surfer's Paradise, Australia.

#### CHAMP CARS

**Last race:** Sebastian Bourdais held off Newman-Haas teammate Bruno Junqueira in a side-by-side battle to win the Las Vegas 400 for his sixth victory of 2004. Gaughan won by .006 seconds.

**Next race:** Oct. 24, Surfer's Paradise, Australia.



# Pitching poverty

## Astros figure to lose arms race vs. Cards

At the rate Houston Astros manager Phil Garner has been going through pitchers, there won't be any grass left on the path between his dugout and the mound by the time this National League championship series grinds to a merciful halt.

Whoever said Garner has been managing this postseason like his mistake was on fire neglected to mention that his pitching staff has the third-degree burns to show for it. With potent lineups on both sides, Houston-St. Louis already has all the earmarks of a war of attrition that the Astros are bound to lose.

A quick glance at the boxscore from Wednesday night's 10-7 victory by the Cardinals in the series opener shows Garner used only four pitchers to St. Louis manager Tony La Russa's six. But that doesn't begin to tell the story.

In the Astros' case, the story begins in Game 4 of their best-of-five division series with Atlanta. Leading 2 games to 1, Garner elected to go for broke, bypassing possible starter Pete Munro and instead giving the ball to 42-year-old Roger Clemens, who was still recovering from a particularly nasty bout of stomach flu.

It's important to pause here and give Garner plenty of credit.

He took over an underachieving ballclub in the middle of the season, presided over one of the greatest second-half runs in baseball history and gave Houston its first postseason series victory in the 42-year history of the franchise. The question now, though, is whether the way he managed to win that one series finished off any chance the Astros had of winning this one, let alone the World Series.

Clemens actually left Game 4 of the NLDS with the lead, but the Braves roared back to



Houston manager Phil Garner is looking for some way to relieve the strain on his pitching staff.

win it and the long-range effects of Garner's decision is haunting Houston's pitching staff still. Roy Oswalt had to come back on three days' rest to clinch Game 5, effectively ruling out both him and Clemens until the NLCS heads south to Houston for Games 3 and 4.

And you don't even want to know what will happen if they're needed for Games 6 and 7. Since the advent of five-man rotations, starters pitching on three days' rest are 7-20 in the postseason.

But even that doesn't cover the extent of the damage. The short starts by Clemens and Oswalt put even more stress on a bullpen still feeling the effects of the late-season change that looked up the wild-card spot on the final day. In Games 3, 4 and 5 against the Braves, that already overworked crew accounted for 11 innings over just three days — and that was just a prelude to facing a St. Louis lineup that led the league in just about every offensive category.

"I don't think we're strained," Garner said. "Our guys have not been overused coming in. I don't think we pushed anybody beyond what their normal limits would be to be able to come back."

"I think," he added, "we're OK in that regard."

Time will tell, but there's no doubt Garner would switch bullpen vets La Russa in a heartbeat. St. Louis' was already deeper and more talented; it ranked as the NL's best, and its only toss-up between the two would be the closers, Houston's Brad Lidge vs. Jason Isringhausen. And by now, the Cards have had a lot more rest.

In their division series against the Dodgers, St. Louis relievers were called upon only once to get more than nine outs, and they responded masterfully, surrendering just one run

against Los Angeles. Isringhausen had so little to do that after he closed out the Astros in Game 1 with just one pitch — a groundout by Carlos Beltran in the bottom of the ninth — someone asked whether he would have been happier taking the night off.

"No," Isringhausen chuckled, "I think after one pitch, I'll be all right for tomorrow."

In contrast to Game 1 Astros starter Brandon Backe, who pitched on three days' rest, Munro will throw Game 2 after a layoff of almost two weeks.

"It could be a bad thing for some guys," Munro said, "but I don't think it's going to be a problem with me."

He doesn't figure to get much sympathy either. Left-hander Andy Pettitte, whose off-season move from the Yankees to Houston raised hopes that were dashed when elbow problems finished his year in late July, said every pitcher is worn out by this juncture. He took the mound twice in the postseason last year with only three days' rest.

"And I pitched as well as I ever did," Pettitte said. "You count on adrenaline, try to build some momentum and then just hang on. You can make your body do some amazing things."

Right now, Garner would be happy if the local weathermen do something amazing instead, like get the forecast right. A storm front packing showers is headed for St. Louis by mid-afternoon Thursday, and it would provide relief for more than the crops.

"Praying for rain?" someone asked Garner as he headed back toward the Houston clubhouse after Game 1.

The Astros manager stopped, then turned and smiled.

"You just figured that out?" he said.

Jim Little is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at [jlittle@ap.org](mailto:jlittle@ap.org).

# Cards: Series opens with slugfest by wild card

CARDS, FROM BACK PAGE

Given a chance to do it, Walker struck out in the eighth inning.

"That's all I needed, just a home run! I think you could tell from my swings I was hacking at it pretty good," he said. "I knew what was at stake. I took a shot at it. I wasn't trying to hit a line drive."

No one thought pitchers would rule in this series, and it was an accurate prediction. Edmonds' three-run double with two outs capped a six-run sixth inning that broke the game open and put St. Louis ahead 10-4.

"We got some huge hits that fell in for us," Walker said. "A string of hits is just as good as hitting the ball out of the ballpark."

Unheralded Pete Munro gets his chance to try to slow the team that led the majors with 105 victories. A guy who began the season in the minors with Minnesota, Munro will start Game 2 for Houston against 15-game winner Matt Morris on Thursday night.

For sure, Astros manager Phil Garner will find himself watching The Weather Channel. The forecast is for showers, and the Astros' bullpen would certainly welcome it.

A rainout would allow them to bring back ace Roger Clemens in Game 2 and then use 20-game winner Roy Oswalt back home in Game 3.

Williams lasted six innings, adding to the victory he earned in Game 1 of the first round against Los Angeles. Jason Isringhausen got the final out for a save.

Chad Qualls wound up as the losing pitcher, in relief of Brandon Backe.

"It was just a bad day today," Backe said.

Rolen, bothered by a strained left calf, was 0-for-14 in the first three games before lining a single that made it 4-4 in the fifth.

"I got my one for the series," the All-Star third baseman said. "No, I hope not."

Williams' one-out double got the inning going, and Walker later snapped his bat on an RBI double. The ball looped to left while the shattered barrel went into the Cardinals' first-base dugout and sent Edmonds scurrying.

For all the big hits, the Cardinals strung together a bunch of little ones in the game-turning sixth inning.

Reggie Sanders got an infield single and pinch hitter Roger Cedeño's groundout put St. Louis ahead. Womack and Walker added RBI singles, and another run scored on shortstop Jose Vizcaino's bunt throw before Edmonds' big double.

Berkman hit a two-run homer in the eighth and Ladd added a solo homer in the ninth.

# Great Scott! Cardinals' Rolen gets a hit

BY R.B. FALLSTROM

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Scott Rolen is contributing again — and that's bad news for the Houston Astros.

The Cardinals twice rallied from a two-run deficit in their 10-7 victory over the Houston Astros in Game 1 of the National League championship series on Wednesday night. Rolen was responsible for tying it the second time, ending a 3-for-32 slump — including 0-for-14 in the playoffs — with a five-drive single in the fifth inning.

"Yeah, it was all right getting that hit," Rolen said.

Rolen had a career-best .314 average, his first 300 season, with 34 homers and a team-leading 124 RBIs in the regular season. His troubles began when he strained his left calf on Sept. 11,

an injury that sidelined him for 16 games.

Since returning on Sept. 28, he has struggled with his timing. But he never lost his sense of humor.

After the Cardinals eliminated the Los Angeles Dodgers in four games, Rolen said during the celebration that popping champagne corks was enough for him. On Wednesday, he joked that he considered it an 0-for-2 slump because the Cardinals had started a fresh series.

"I didn't know we had to go back to the first series and count all of those at-bats," Rolen joked. "But I felt good at the plate tonight and I felt good at the plate most of the last series."

"Results are important and tonight something got through for me. It's a good feeling."

Rolen also walked and scored

ahead of Jim Edmonds' three-run double that capped a six-run sixth. He wasn't about to predict a hot streak, though, noting that he struck out in his final at-bat. "I punched out late, so it could be over," Rolen said. "The well done dried up on me. I got my one for the series."

"No, I hope not. Tomorrow I'll come out and try to have a good approach again."

The Cardinals got big games from their other big sticks — Larry Walker, Albert Pujols and Edmonds — to take the lead in the series. It was St. Louis' first victory in the opener of the NLCS since 1987.

"Game 1 is pretty important unless you lose it, and then it's not so big," Rolen said. "Since we won it, we'll say it's a big game." "Hopefully we can win tomorrow and come back and say Game 2 is a big game."



St. Louis' Scott Rolen, stretching before the game, finally got his first postseason hit Wednesday.

# Boston bats silent again in New York

By HOWARD ULMAN  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Red Sox bats that knocked balls over fences all season flailed wildly at them in the first two games of the AL championship series.

Then the team pined its lumber for the trip home, hoping to find new life in them at Fenway Park.

"You haven't heard?" reliever Mike Timlin said. "It's called 'Friendly Fenway.'"

At Yankee Stadium, the Red Sox lost 3-1 Wednesday night, falling behind 2-0 in the best-of-seven ALCS. Game 3 is Friday in Boston, where the Red Sox had the AL's second-best home record — behind the Yankees.

"We don't play like slouches on the road, either," Timlin said.

For most of the first two games, that's exactly what they did.

It didn't matter that Manny Ramirez led the AL with 43 homers and added 130 RBIs. David Ortiz's 41 homers and 139 RBIs also were in the past. And so what if the Red Sox were the AL's highest scoring team and tied Anaheim with a league-leading 282 batting average? In the two ALCS games, the Red Sox had just three good innings out of the 18 played.

In the other 15, they had no runs and just five hits.

The team counts on leadoff hitter Johnny Damon to set the tone, and the 123 runs he's batted in batting average, that's what he did every year. He struck out just once during nine at-bats during the regular season, and in the ALCS, he's 0-for-10 with five strikeouts.

"I'll take responsibility for this," Damon said. "I'm the cata-



Boston Red Sox's Johnny Damon walks off the field after striking out looking in the eighth inning.

lyst of this team. I'm the guy on this team that gets us going, gets on base and creates some havoc, but I haven't been able to do that."

The Red Sox actually sent the tying run to the plate in the ninth inning of both games. Then their bats went silent again.

Bill Mueller, last year's AL batting champion, grounded into a game-ending double play against Mariano Rivera with two runners on and Boston trailing 10-7 in the opener.

On Wednesday, Ramirez doubled with one out in the ninth and cleanup hitter Ortiz coming up.

And if he failed, Kevin Millar was on deck with another chance to tie the game.

But Rivera came through again. He struck out Ortiz and Millar, who lugged their useless bats back to the dugout.

The Red Sox couldn't do much against the starters, either. Mike Mussina retired the first 19 batters in the opener, and Jon Lieber allowed just three singles in seven-plus scoreless innings.

"It's not due to being nervous. We just haven't been very successful," Boston manager Terry Francona said.

The Red Sox scored in only three innings — five runs in the seventh and two in the eighth on Tuesday, and one run in the eighth on Wednesday.

"You've got to give Mussina and Lieber credit. They pitched great games," said Ramirez, who made 1-for-4 in each game and didn't drive a run.

Pedro Martinez kept the Red Sox in the second game by allowing one run on three hits before giving up John Olerud's two-run homer in the sixth.

Now he's 11-12 against the Yankees, including playoffs. But in 15 of those games, the Red Sox scored three runs or less.

"I can't do anything if we don't score runs," Martinez said. "Whenever I will get the support, I don't know. I'm not asking."

But Damon hasn't abandoned hope that the hits will start coming, and the Red Sox will keep the series alive long enough to give Martinez another start against the Yankees.

"That's my goal in life, to knock them out," Damon said. "We're still calm and relaxed. We're down 2-0. Big deal. We've won four in a row before."

## Schilling won't start Game 5

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Boston ace Curt Schilling will not start Game 5 of the AL championship series Sunday because of an injured right ankle.

Derek Lowe will start in his place, Red Sox manager Terry Francona said Thursday. However, rain is forecast for Friday, when Game 3 is scheduled, and that could affect the rotations for both Boston and the New York Yankees.

Schilling is going to try to pitch later in the series, though he was too sore to try throwing Thursday.

"He's not over. He's going to continue to try to prepare," Francona said.

Schilling, who led the major leagues with 21 wins, lasted just three innings and 58 pitches in Boston's 10-7 loss to the New York Yankees in Tuesday night's opener, allowing six runs in his poorest postseason performance since 1993.

He had trouble with his balance and pushing off the pitching rubber, which cut his velocity.

Red Sox team physician Dr. Bill Morgan said before Wednesday's 3-1 loss that the sheath that covers two tendons in Schilling's ankle is torn, allowing one of the tendons to slip out of its groove and rub against a bone.

## MLB scoreboard

Playoffs									
LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES									
American League									
Tuesday, Oct. 12									
New York 10, Boston 7									
Wednesday, Oct. 13									
New York 3, Boston 1, New York leads series 2-0									
Friday, Oct. 15									
New York (Brown 10-6) at Boston (Arroyo 14-10) at Boston (Wallerstein 12-10)									
Saturday, Oct. 16									
New York at Boston, if necessary									
New York at Boston, if necessary									
Boston at New York, if necessary									
Tuesday, Oct. 19									
Boston at New York, if necessary									
Wednesday, Oct. 20									
Boston at New York, if necessary									
Thursday, Oct. 21									
National League									
Tuesday, Oct. 13									
St. Louis 10, Houston 7, St. Louis leads series 1-0									
Thursday, Oct. 14									
Houston (Munro 4-7) at St. Louis (Morris 15-4)									
Friday, Oct. 15									
St. Louis (New York 10-6) at Houston (Clemens 18-4)									
Saturday, Oct. 16									
St. Louis (Marquis 15-7) at Houston (Oswalt 20-10)									
Sunday, Oct. 17									
Monday, Oct. 18									
Houston at St. Louis, if necessary									
Tuesday, Oct. 19									
Houston at St. Louis, if necessary									
Wednesday, Oct. 20									
Houston at St. Louis, if necessary									
Thursday, Oct. 21									
National League at American League									
Saturday, Oct. 23									
NL at AL, if necessary									
Sunday, Oct. 24									
NL at AL, if necessary									
Monday, Oct. 25									
Tuesday, Oct. 26									
Wednesday, Oct. 27									
AL at NL									
AL at NL									
Thursday, Oct. 28									
NL at AL, if necessary									
Friday, Oct. 29									
NL at AL, if necessary									
Saturday, Oct. 30									
NL at AL, if necessary									
Wednesday									
Yankees 3, Red Sox 1									
BOSTON									
Dillon		ab	h	r	e	b	New York		
Barnett		ab	0	0	0	0	0		
Hammer		ab	0	0	0	0	0		
Minnif		ab	0	0	0	0	0		
Molitor		ab	0	0	0	0	0		
Mazur		ab	0	0	0	0	0		
Vazquez		ab	0	0	0	0	0		
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## SPORTS



West Virginia pulls away  
from Connecticut behind  
QB Marshall, Page 29

# A bash at Busch

## Four Astros homers can't stop St. Louis

BY BEN WALKER  
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Lance Berkman is certain the Houston Astros are going to score plenty in the NL championship series. Stopping the St. Louis Cardinals, now that's trouble.

It sure was Wednesday night. In a matchup that promised a lot of hitting, Larry Walker and the Cardinals delivered. They whacked balls all over Busch Stadium, overcoming four Houston home runs to beat up the Astros 10-7 in Game 1.

"You don't have to live with the long ball," Cardinals star Albert Pujols said.

Pujols hit a home run, while slumping Jim Edmonds and Scott Rolen contributed and winning pitcher Woody Williams added a double. And it was a significant win: The past 11 teams to take the opener of the NLCS have reached the World Series.

The Astros won the home-run derby, with Berkman, Carlos Beltran, Jeff Kent and Mike Lamb connecting to account for all of Houston's runs.

"No disrespect to their pitching staff, but we haven't had a problem scoring runs the entire postseason," Berkman said. "Eventually, we're going to have to win a 3-2 or a 4-1 ballgame if we're going to have a legitimate chance of doing anything in the postseason. But as far as we swung the bats, I've got no complaints."

Beltran's fifth homer of the postseason put Houston up 2-0 in the first inning. Not that the hot-hitting team in the league was worried.

"We hadn't even come to bat yet," Walker said. "Right away you're thinking, 'OK, they have two runs, but let's get realistic, we haven't even made one of our 27 outs yet.'"

He was right. After Tony Womack lined out in the bottom half, Walker tripled on a ball that Berkman misplayed in right field and Pujols hit a tying shot into the Cardinals' bullpen.

In an October when the ball is flying — 58 homers in 19 playoff games overall — Walker finished a home run shy of becoming the first player in postseason history to hit for the cycle.



St. Louis Cardinals' Albert Pujols reacts as he crosses the plate after hitting a two-run home run in the first inning against the Houston Astros in Game 1 of their NL championship series in St. Louis on Wednesday.



Yankees starter Jon Lieber took a shutout into the eighth inning.

## They're still his daddy

## Martinez loses duel with Lieber

BY RONALD BLUM  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jon Lieber dislikes glitz and glamour, preferring to be a low-profile pitcher on the back end of the New York Yankees' rotation.

Not any more. In Game 2 of the AL championship series, he became Pedro Martinez's latest father figure.

Pitching against the three-time Cy Young Award winner, Lieber smothered the highest-scoring offense in the major leagues. He took a shutout into the eighth inning. John Olerud backed him with a two-run homer in the sixth off the tiring Martinez and the Yankees beat the Red Sox 3-1 Wednesday night for a 2-0 lead in the AL championship series.

"I knew coming into this game what Pedro has done in the past in situations like this, so there was no room for error," Lieber said.

While Lieber likes being under the radar, Martinez, like it or not, can't avoid the spotlight. He had it before and it only grew larger after a loss to New York on Sept. 24 prompted him to say: "Just tip my hat and call the Yankees my daddy. I can't find a way to beat them at this point."

While the raucous crowd of 56,136 at Yankee Stadium taunted Martinez with booming chants of "Who's Your Daddy?" he insisted he didn't mind.

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SEE CARDS ON PAGE 30

Signing of 15-year-old driver raises questions, eyebrows Page 28